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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No. 4

pp. 3431 — 3635

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1948

PALESTINE

E 3431

MAR '48

Registry Number | E3431/4/41

TELEGRAM FROM

No. U.K. Del

Dated New York.

Received in Registry | 882

13th Mar
15th "

Big Four Committee.

Refers New York tel No, 854 E3358/4/31.
Transmits account of Big Four discussions of 12th Mar derived from New York Times report, general accuracy of which has been confirmed by French delegation.
The three powers, Russia abstaining, decided to invite the Arab Higher Committee to attend consultations on Monday.
Silver and Shertok were then called and presented nine proposals, (see following tel).

Last Paper.

3430

(Minutes.)

J. Kalpur 15/3

213 2/4

References.

68538

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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Mar 15*

(Action completed.)

pp 3/4

(Index.)

3/12/48

Next Paper.

7432

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WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

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FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 882

D. 5.43 p.m. 13th March, 1948.

13th March, 1948.

R. 9.17 p.m. 15th March, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem

Washington Saving

E 3431

IMPORTANT
RESTRICTED
GLANT

15 MAR 1948

Addressed Foreign Office No. 882 13th March repeated for information to Jerusalem and Washington Saving.

My telegram No. 854: Palestine.

Following account of Big Four discussions yesterday is derived from New York Times report, general accuracy of which has been confirmed by French delegation.

2. The three powers, Russia abstaining, decided to invite the Arab Higher Committee to attend consultations on Monday.

3. Silver and Shertok were then called in and presented nine proposals (text in my immediately following telegram) designed to secure implementation of partition plan. Asked whether they should be heard, Gromyko said that as long as they were there at demand of United States, China and France these three Powers might as well listen to what they had to say.

4. In answer to questions asked principally by Austin, Shertok said there was no possibility of agreement between Jews and Arabs on partition "if what is meant is a public agreement signed between two representative bodies before implementation of the plan". In Jewish view, partition cannot be implemented peacefully notwithstanding "a large measure of acquiescence by Palestinian Arabs". Agency was prepared to accept full responsibility for governmental administration and for maintenance of law order within Jewish State. Agency considered all basic elements of Assembly's plan important. Economic union, though desirable, was not essential. Jews would give "any paper guarantee and agree to any formality" for protection of Arab minorities in Jewish State and would co-operate with United Nations administration of Jerusalem. Both Silver and Shertok emphasised Agency's firm opposition to any substantial modifications to plan, and that in their view nothing short of abandonment of partition would be acceptable to the Arabs.

5. Meeting then considered Commission's answers to questions in my telegram No. 855, some of which are reported as follows:-

(1) No;

(2) Commission appears to have dodged this invitation to suggest modifications;

(4) printing

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3
New York (U.K.Del.) telegram No. 883 to Foreign Office

- 2 -

(4) pointing particularly to Arab resistance, Commission "does not consider it possible to implement plan by peaceful means either as a whole or in substantial part";

(7) non-co-operative attitude of Arab Higher Committee and Arab resistance in Palestine "preclude any possibility of setting up Arab Provisional Council of Government" by April 1st. While some steps were possible towards setting up Jewish Provisional Council, latter "will not be able to carry out its functions in the sense of the plan prior to the termination of the Mandate".

6. After meeting Russian delegate issued to press a further statement accusing the United States of trying to delay implementation plan by insistence on consultations with Jews and Arabs. This was countered by a United States statement emphasising that purpose of consultations was to find a means for peaceful implementation of partition plan, and that "this purpose is not being assisted by refusal of one or more parties to take part in consultations".

Foreign Office please pass Important to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 213,

[Copy sent to Telegram Section, Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem.]

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1948

E

PALESTINE

E 3432

1 MAR 348

Registry Number E3432/4/41

TELEGRAM FROM

No. U.K. Del

Dated New York.

Received in Registry 883

13th Mar
15th "

Big Four Committee, Jewish Agency Proposals.

Refers New York tel No, 882. E3431/4/31.

Now transmits Text of Jewish Agency Proposals

Last Paper.

7431

References.

(Print.)

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(Index)

3/12/48

Next Paper.

3452

(Minutes.)

J. Halpern
15/3

H.B. 4/3

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FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 883 D. 4. 56 p.m. 13th March, 1948.
13th March, 1948. R. 10. 18 p.m. 15th March, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem
Washington Saving

E 3432

15 MAR 1948

IMPORTANT
GIANT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 883 of 13th March repeated for information to Jerusalem and Saving to Washington.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Palestine.

Following are Jewish Agency proposals.

The Security Council should

1. Assume responsibility assigned to it in General Assembly's plan for implementation
2. Determine any attempt to alter by force the Assembly's resolution as a "threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression"
3. Determine that a threat to the peace does exist in view of action by certain Arab Governments
4. Call upon Arab member states to stop recruiting and organising armed forces to resist the Assembly's resolution, and to withdraw their nationals already sent for this purpose
5. Call upon Arab States to stop their warlike propaganda and incitement contrary to the unanimous resolution of the General Assembly against warmongering
6. Call upon the Mandatory power to prevent the entry of unauthorised forces and to expel those already in Palestine
7. Instruct the Palestine Commission to proceed with all speed with all phases of implementation with special priority to establishment of provisional councils of government and the organisation and equipment of militias

/ 8. Call upon

15 MAR 1948

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New York U.K.Del. telegram No.883 to Foreign Office

-2-

8. Call upon member states to offer arms to parties co-operating with United Nations resolution and to withhold them from those defying it

9. Empower the Palestine Commission to take all steps which may assist in the maintenance of peace in Jerusalem

Foreign Office please pass important to Jerusalem telegram No. 214.

[Copies sent to Telegram Section Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem]

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E 3452

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1948

PALESTINE

16 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3452/4/31

FROM U.K. Del

No. New York.

Dated 9th Mar
Received in Registry 16th "Permanent Members Committee.

Copy of letter addressed to Mr. Bevin from the Secretary General. U.N. transmitting resolution by Security Council, calling upon Permanent members of the Council to consult and to make recommendations on the Palestine situation which the Security Council might give to the Palestine Commission for guidance with a view to implementing the resolution of the General Assembly.

Last Paper.

3432

(Minutes.)

D. A. L. P. 16/3

H.B. 16/3

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

9/11/43

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2/12/44

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15 MAR 1948

With the compliments of the

United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations

Copy retained in Vilegation

[Handwritten signature]

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ADDRESS: UNATIONS NEW YORK

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE: UNATIONS NEW-YORK

8

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

LAKE SUCCESS, NEW YORK • FIELDSTONE 7-1100

REFERENCE:

801-12-9-1/DP

8 March 1948

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the United Kingdom

..... and has the honour to request that the text of the enclosed resolution on the Palestinian Question, adopted by the Security Council at its two hundred and sixty-third meeting on 5 March 1948 (document S/691) be communicated to his Government.

The Secretary-General has the honour to draw particular attention to the last paragraph of this resolution.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.,
England.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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United Nations

SECURITY
COUNCIL

Nations Unies

CONSEIL
DE SECURITE

UNRESTRICTED

S/691
5 March 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

9

RESOLUTION ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION ADOPTED BY
THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT ITS TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THIRD
MEETING 5 MARCH 1948

THE SECURITY COUNCIL,

HAVING received the resolution of the General Assembly of
29 November 1947, on Palestine, and having received from the United
Nations Palestine Commission its First Monthly Report and its First
Special Report on the Problem of Security in Palestine;

RESOLVES to call on the permanent members of the Council to
consult and to inform the Security Council regarding the situation
with respect to Palestine and to make as the result of such
consultations recommendations to it regarding the guidance and
instructions which the Council might usefully give to the Palestine
Commission with a view of implementing the resolution of the General
Assembly. The Security Council requests the permanent members to
report to it on the results of their consultations within ten days.

APPEALS to all Governments and peoples, particularly in and
around Palestine, to take all possible action to prevent or reduce
such disorders as are now occurring in Palestine.

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E 3496

16

16 MAR 1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number E3496/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. U.K. Del

Dated Newyork.

Received in Registry 891

15th Mar
16th "

Questions by Permanent Members Committee.

Refers New York tel No 856, E3360/4/31.

ext of reply of Arab Higher committee was received through French delegation 15th March. Committee regard question as emanating from United States, China and France "in a noble endeavour..... to find solution to problem of Palestine and not as emanating from a body considering partition as a solution". Committee reiterate rejection of "any solution based on partition in any form.

Last Paper.

3452

References.

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Mar 16

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E 3496

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16 MAR 1948

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations).

No. 891.

D. 7.25 p.m. 15th March, 1948.

15th March, 1948.

R. 1.55 a.m. 16th March, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem and Washington.

IMMEDIATE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

LIGHT.

GIANT.

Addressed to F.O. telegram No. 891 of 15th March,
repeated for information to Jerusalem and Washington.

My telegram No. 893 paragraph 3.

Palestine.

Text of reply of Arab Higher Committee was received
through French delegation this evening.

2. Committee regard questions as emanating from United States China and France "in a noble endeavour..... to find solution to problem of Palestine and not as emanating from a body considering partition as a solution". Committee observe however, that all questions revolve round partition, which Palestine Arabs with unequivocal support of Arab States have categorically rejected for reasons indicated in statements at General Assembly.

3. Committee reiterate rejection of "any solution based on partition in any form, including creation of a separate provisional or permanent administration for the City of Jerusalem" and reaffirm that only solution compatible with ideals of United Nations Charter is independent unitary state for whole of Palestine with democratic constitution including adequate safeguards for minorities and safety of holy places.

Please repeat to Jerusalem immediate as my telegram No. 218.

[Copy sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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16 MAR 1948

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E 3516

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16 MAR 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E3516/4/31

FROM I. Nakhleh,
Arab Higher
Committee.

No. to Mr. Bevin.

Dated 13th Mar
Received in Registry } 16th "Arab Higher Committee Memorandum.

Encloses copy of memorandum which Arab Higher
has sent to all delegations at the United Nations.
Entitled "The Black Paper on Jewish Agency and
Zionist Terrorism".

Last Paper.

7499

(Minutes.)

7473. 11/14

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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SYRIAN DELEGATION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
4512 EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK 1, N.Y.

E 13

E 3516

16 MAR 1948

13th March 1948

The Right Honorable Ernest Bevin
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
White Hall
London, England

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herein please find a copy of the
memorandum which we sent to all the delegations
at the United Nations. I am sure that it will
be of some interest to you.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

I. Nakleh

Isa Nakleh
Representative of the
Arab Higher Committee

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Submitted by
The Arab Higher Committee Delegation
For Palestine
4512 Empire State Building, New York, N. Y.

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THE BLACK PAPER ON THE JEWISH AGENCY

AND ZIONIST TERRORISM

Zionist Plotting and Totalitarianism:

Zionists must bear responsibility for every drop of innocent blood shed in the Holy Land. These groups of international intriguers made broad, ambitious plans for the conquest of the Holy Land. They tried to secure a promise for entry into that country from Turkey and from Germany, but failed. They obtained a promise from England in 1917. They formed a network of Zionist organizations and Zionist groups all over the world. They planned to plant pressure groups in the most important Governments in the world. Through their advertisements and business interests, they have controlled the channels of propaganda in important countries. They have tried to mobilize world Jewry for this task at the cost of browbeating, threatening, bullying, terrorizing, economically ruining or assassinating the character of those who opposed them. They have shamed Christians and intimidated them. They have branded and smeared Gentiles who did not agree with them, as anti-Semite; they have used against them the same methods of pressure and terror which they used against the Jews. With an elaborate machinery of propaganda they have distorted facts about the Arabs and confused the issue on Palestine. They have created a net of spying all over the world, in the Middle East, Palestine, Europe, the United States of America and other countries. The activities of some Zionist spying organizations are well known to members of the Arab Higher Committee Delegation and some United States Government officials. The shadowing of people, tapping their telephones, prying into their private lives and attempting to obtain copies of private documents, are only a few examples of the activities of Zionist spying organizations.

The Zionists have incited the Jews of Europe to migrate to Palestine, and to that end they have been the real obstacle in the way of the settlement of the refugees and displaced persons problem. With their campaign of propaganda among refugees, with the organized efforts of the Jewish Agency and Hagana, supplied with unlimited tax-exempt funds from the United Jewish Appeal, they grouped illegal immigrants in European ports, chartered ships and carried those "immigrants" as invaders to Palestine. The Zionists have purposely and deliberately aggravated the refugees' problem. They have exploited the miseries of the refugees to win world sympathy for Zionism. They even had the audacity to form kidnapping rings for abducting children and taking them to Palestine. The Zionists, moreover, bought and smuggled big quantities of arms, ammunition and military equipment, both from Europe and from America, and shipped them to Palestine. They have built in Palestine small factories for manufacturing arms and ammunition and set up laboratories for bacteriological warfare.

The Zionist set-up in Palestine is totalitarian. Their youth movement and their system of education have molded a generation of Jewish fanatics. Their terrorist organizations which rob, terrorize, blackmail and murder Jews; the obligatory conscription of young men and women; the spying on Jews who wish to leave the country; the terroristic measures applied to those Jews who, on many occasions, secretly contacted Arabs and sought their help to leave the country - are only a few of many examples of the inroads on civil liberties made by Zionists on the Jews of Palestine. Their methods have been equalled only by the Nazis!

On March 8th, 1948, the correspondent of the New York Times cited an example of what the Hagana and the Jewish Agency are doing. The correspondent, Dana Adams Schmidt, said:

"The Hagana claims the right to mobilize even United States citizens if they are of military age and reside in Palestine, a spokesman of the Jewish Agency declared today. Jews holding United States passports complained recently that they had been threatened with violence if they attempted to return to the United States. When 200 Jewish Americans were about to sail for the United States in the Russian ship Rossiya from Haifa at the end of February, a party of Hagana men invaded the pier and threw some of the passports into the harbor before being removed by British marines...." "The Hagana has watchers who check travel agencies, ticket offices and other key points to identify those who hope to leave the country."

The spokesman of the Jewish Agency is reported in the same dispatch to have said:

"The Agency considered conscription to be in force and used whatever means to enforce it....Youth of military age have been asked to register. Anybody wishing to travel abroad must get an exit permit from a registration office. Jewish travel agencies will not sell them

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tickets without it. Men are sent by Hagana into cinema queues and restaurants to check on registration cards. Jewish firms will not employ anybody who does not hold one."

The following few incidents reported by the correspondent of the New York Times on March 9th, 1948, show further examples of the Jewish Agency and Hagana terror against fellow Jews:

- 1) "Pickets of Hagana asked a young, well-dressed woman whether she had a registration card. 'No, I haven't', she replied. A woman picket thereupon said, 'You had better not come here again or attend any movie performance or be seen in public until you register.'"
- 2) A house in Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv, was siezed by the Hagana on the ground of the departure abroad of the family's eldest son.
- 3) At Rishon-Le-Zion a man and a woman were fined the equivalent of \$4,000, ordered to place their home at the hagana's disposal and warned to assure the return from England of their 18 year old son, whom they had sent there by air. A Hagana court similarly directed that unless the son returned within six weeks an additional \$8,000 fine would be imposed, along with other penalties.

These terror methods of intimidation to assure absolute submission are the same methods that were applied by the Nazis.

Who Are the Top Men Behind All This?

The outfit behind the Zionist program is a Zionist Council elected by a Zionist Congress of Jewish Communities all over the world. The Council elects the Executive of the Jewish Agency. The following are the international members of the said Executive:

Jerusalem

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1. David Ben Gurion | Polish | 7. Eliezer Kaplan | Russian |
| 2. Eliahu Dobkin | Russian | 8. Dr. Emil Schmorak | Polish |
| 3. Rabbi T. L. Fishman | Lithuanian | 9. Dr. Werner Senator | German |
| 4. Moshe Snoh | Russian | 10. Moshe Shapiro | German |
| 5. Itzchat Gruenbaum | Polish | 11. Moshe Shortok | Russian |
| 6. Dr. Bernard Joseph | Canadian | 12. Golda Myerson | Russian |

New York

- | | | | |
|--|----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 13. Dr. Nahum Goldman | American | 16. Dr. M. J. Karpf | American |
| 14. Dr. M. B. Hexter | American | 17. Louis Lipsky | American |
| 15. Mrs. Edward Jacobs | American | 18. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver | American of Lithuanian origin |
| 19. Dr. Stephen S. Wise - American of Hungarian origin | | | |

London

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| 20. Prof. Selig Brodetsky | British | 21. Berl Locker | British |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|

The Jewish Terrorist Organizations:

Since 1939 the most dastardly outrages have been committed in Palestine by the Jewish illegal organizations. These outrages were not sporadic or the acts of excited mobs, but the result of premeditated malice, design and cold-blooded planning. Although the perpetrators of these crimes are so-called terrorist organizations, they are directed, supervised and financed by the Jewish Agency, or its subsidiary organs or collaborators.

The organizations responsible for these outrages are the Irgun Hagana, Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang. All these three organizations were originally one, namely the Irgun Hagana. Private rivalries caused these organizations to differ in method, but not in objectives and policy. At heart they have always been in full agreement and coordination with each other and with members of the Executive of the Jewish Agency.

Dispatches from Jerusalem dated the 9th of March state that Zionist leaders have agreed to merge the Hagana and the Irgun Zvai Leumi in Palestine to create a unified military arm for the proposed Jewish State, working under a single high command.

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Connection Between the Jewish Agency and the Terrorist Organizations:

The Jewish Agency has a very aggressive program. Since 1920 it has been planning the conquest of Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish State in both Palestine and Transjordan. In order to achieve that end, it planned and organized military forces, instilling in the minds of their youth, from the nursery up, implacable hatred for the Arabs and a grim determination to take away their land and constitute it as a Jewish State. Anyone who saw the Jewish young men and women marching in formations all over Palestine could hardly differentiate between the Hitler Youth of Germany and the Jewish Youth of Palestine! The Jewish Agency, has moreover, imposed obligatory conscription of one year's training in the settlements on every young man and woman before he or she graduates from college, and before he or she is able to be employed.

Out of this fanatic generation of Jews, the Jewish Agency has formed the nucleus of these terrorist organizations which have been constantly supplied from illegal immigrants trained in Europe. The Hagana is organized under the leadership and command of members of the Jewish Agency Executive. The Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang are the two organizations which specialized in hit-and-run tactics. In fact, and in effect, the three organizations are one - the striking force of the Jewish Agency, although the Zionists wish to bluff the world into the belief that they are different. To any experienced observer of Jewish methods, this design is very clear and apparent. The Jewish Agency wanted to appear as the moderate group, coming out at times with hypocritical lip disapproval of the acts of these terrorist gangs, which they have skillfully termed "dissident groups". The whole world knows the exact relationship between the Jewish Agency, the Hagana, the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Gang. They have all been working as a team in full harmony and cooperation, except for minor differences due to some personal rivalries. The object and the policy, however, are one and the same. These facts are proved by evidence brought forth by the British Government in its White Paper on "Acts of Violence in Palestine", published in July, 1946, in which the British Government stated as follows:

"The information which was in the possession of His Majesty's Government when they undertook their recent action in Palestine led them to draw the following conclusions:-

1) that the Hagana and its associated force, the Palmach, (working under the political control of prominent members of the Jewish Agency) have been engaging in carefully planned movements of sabotage and violence under the guise of "the Jewish Resistance Movement";

2) that the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern Group have worked since last Autumn in cooperation with the Hagana High Command on certain of these operations; and

3) that the broadcasting station "Kol Israel", which claims to be "the Voice of the Resistance Movement" and which was working under the general direction of the Jewish Agency, has been supporting these organizations."

Finances of the Jewish Terrorist Organizations:

The Jewish Agency has furthermore been responsible for financing and equipping these terrorist organizations with money and arms. The budget of the Jewish Agency over many years has always included large sums of money for "security and military organizations". In the year 1946 the Jewish Agency spent \$3,808,697 and in 1947 \$6,075,000. According to the publications of the United Jewish Appeal for 1948 the Jewish Agency is bidding for 28 million dollars, for "national organization and security." These enormous sums of money have been used by the Jewish Agency for supplying the terrorist organizations with arms, explosives and ammunition. It is a well known fact that the Jewish Agency has bought and smuggled arms from Europe and America. The shipment of TNT and explosives which were discovered and stopped from leaving New Jersey to Palestine early in January of this year, were bought by the Jewish Agency.

It is very significant to note that 90% of the budget of the Jewish Agency comes from the United Palestine Appeal, which is part of the United Jewish Appeal. The Jewish Agency and the Zionist organizations in America which are really the bodies behind the United Jewish Appeal, misled the United States Government into believing that this money is collected for charitable purposes, while a great part of it is actually being spent for buying arms, explosives and ammunition to supply the Jewish terrorist gangs in Palestine, as well as for fulfilling the political ambitions of the Zionists.

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Zionists Invade Palestine with Hordes of Illegal Immigrants:

Since 1932 the Jewish Agency and Hagana have taken active steps to encourage, organize and finance illegal immigration to Palestine in defiance of the laws of that and other countries.

From that year and until 1948, about 100,000 Jews either entered or tried to enter Palestine as illegal immigrants. Over 50 of the invading ships carrying these illegal immigrants were chartered and supplied by the Jewish Agency and Hagana. The great chaos, uproar and disturbances which resulted from this open invasion could not be covered by this memorandum. The Jewish Agency is at present massing thousands of illegal immigrants in Europe where they are trained in fighting and sabotage with the intention of going to Palestine to fight the Arabs.

On the 5th of March, 1948, a spokesman of the Jewish Agency, in a statement to the press, spoke of what the Zionists are planning to do after the 16th of May, when the British will have withdrawn from Palestine. He was reported to have said:

"At the same time reinforcements in men would begin to move through the Mediterranean ports to join some 30,000 fully trained and 30,000 partly trained men already in the Hagana forces. In addition to those who would come from Europe, he mentioned 14,000 who are waiting in Cyprus." (New York Times, March 6, 1948.)

The Policy of the Jewish Agency After the Publication of the White Paper of 1939:

Since 1939, when the British Government issued the White Paper on Palestine outlining its future policy for that country, the Jewish Agency decided to adopt an aggressive and offensive policy in order to force the hand of the British Government to change the said White Paper. The incitement, the fiery speeches delivered by Zionists all over the world, are too numerous to be quoted in this memorandum. Beside incitements and intimidation, the Jewish Agency has carefully planned a wave of terror not only in the Holy Land, but also against the British authorities in Europe and in Britain itself.

In Palestine, some members of the Jewish Agency organized, planned, authorized and agreed to the commission of murder, arson and sabotage. David Ben Gurion, Moshe Shertok, Moshe Sneh, and Bernard Joseph - members of the Jewish Agency - are according to documentary evidence, guilty of being principals before the fact, and party to a common design to commit some of the outrages which will be presently enumerated in this memorandum. The evidence against them, published by the British Government in the White Paper of 1946, is contained in several cables sent by them authorizing the command of the Hagana and other terrorist groups to commit such acts. The following are the texts of these telegrams:

To Moshe Shertok from Sneh in Jerusalem--23rd September, 1945.

"It is suggested that we do not wait for the official announcement but call upon all Jewry to warn the authorities and to raise the morale of the Yishuv. If you agree ask Zeev Sharif for statistical material about the absorptive capacity and if you do not agree tell him that this material is not yet required. It has also been suggested that we cause one serious incident. We would then publish a declaration to the effect that it is only a warning and an indication of much more serious incidents that would threaten the safety of all British interests in the country, should the government decide against us. Wire your views with the reference as before but referring to statistical material about immigration during the war years. The Stern Group have expressed their willingness to join us completely on the basis of our programme of activity. This time the intention seems serious. If there is such a union we may assume that we can prevent independent action even by the IZL. Wire your views on the question of the union referring to statistical material about Jewish recruitment to the Army. Sneh."

N.B.--Sneh is Security member of the Jewish Agency Executive. IZL is the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

That the Agency Executive agreed to the above action is clearly shown in the following:

To Moshe Shertok, London From Bernard Joseph in Jerusalem--10th October, 1945:

"Eliezer Kaplan basing himself on a word from Hayyim via Nwbw says that we should undertake nothing before you give us instructions to do.

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He is opposed to any real action on our part until we hear from you.

"Other members, however, are of the opinion that it is necessary to back your political effort with activities which do not bear the character of a general conflict."

"It is essential that we should know at once whether such actions are likely to be useful or detrimental to your struggle.

"Should you be opposed to any action whatever, wire that we should wait for the arrival of Wlsly.

"Should you agree to isolated actions, wire that you agree to sending a deputation to the dominions."

"If Hayyin meant us only avoid a general conflict not isolated cases, send greetings to Chill for the birth of his daughter."

N.B.--Bernard Joseph is legal adviser to the Jewish Agency and a member of its Executive. He acts in Shertok's absence as Head of the Political Department. Eliezer Kaplan is Head of the Agency's financial Department and a member of its Executive.

From Moshe Shertok in London to Bernard Joseph in Jerusalem, October 12, 1945:

"David will not leave before fortnight. Meanwhile probably revisit Paris. Regarding Dobkin written. David himself favoured delegate dominions. Please congratulate Chill on birth of daughter. Signed Shertok"

N. B.--(1) Moshe Shertok is Head of the Agency's Political Department and a member of the Executive.

(2) A reference to the second telegram will show that the phrases about "delegate dominions" and "greetings to Chill" meant that it was desired, whilst avoiding a general conflict, to indulge in isolated actions.

To Moshe Shertok, London from Jerusalem--November 2, 1945:

"The Executive refuses to give authority to the political department to act within the limits of Ben Gurion's instructions. Gsbr argues that he will oppose this as soon as Ben Gurion and Shertok return. I declared that I will act according to the instructions which I have received until an authoritative message is received which cancels Ben Gurion's instructions. They did not dare to cancel the instructions but insisted that we inform the Executive in advance of each action and that they should have the right of veto. We received agreement for the police boats and for the railway. All activities may thus be spoiled owing to pressure from the party on Bernard Joseph and on Aliahu."

N. B.--David Ben Gurion is Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive.

For the operations of the 31st of October and 1st of November the Agency sought and obtained the cooperation of the "dissident organizations."

To Moshe Shertok, London from Sneh in Jerusalem--1st November, 1945:

"We have come to a working arrangement with the dissident organizations according to which we shall assign certain tasks to them under our command. They will act only according to our plan. Sneh, Shaul, Meiroff, Kn'ny and Bernard Joseph consider such an agreement as most desirable, but it is not being put into effect because the Party is delaying it. Some of them are opposed to any sort of activity and especially to any agreement with the dissidents. Information on the operations follows:--

"The following activities were carried out on Wednesday night. Two boats were sunk in the Haifa harbour and a third at Jaffa. The boats had been used to chase immigrants. Railway lines were blown up in 50 centres, in all 500 explosions. Railway traffic was stopped from the Syrian frontier to Gaza, from Haifa to Samakh, from Lydda to Jerusalem. In all the activities no one was hurt, stopped or arrested.

"The same night the IZL attacked the Lydda station causing serious damage and some casualties. During the same night the Stern Group caused serious sabotage at the refineries at Haifa and one man was killed. The dissidents had previously informed us of this and we did not object to

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Lydda but were opposed to the refinery job. Had the agreement come into effect we could have avoided victims at Lydda and prevented the refinery operation. I regard the fact that the Party and the Executive are withholding their approval as a crime.

"The activities have made a great impression in the country. The authorities are bewildered and have proclaimed a curfew on the roads at night. They are waiting for instructions from London. We are apprehensive of a general attack against the Hagana. We have taken the necessary security measures and are prepared for sacrifices. Confirm by telegram to Ada enquiries about the health of her children."

These cables are not the only evidence in the hands of the British Government, which claims that there is much more information and evidence to incriminate some members of the Jewish Agency and connect them with these acts of murder and sabotage.

On July 19, 1947, the Palestine Government submitted to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine a memorandum in which it accused the Jewish Community of Palestine of supporting political terrorism. Referring to the right of a community to use force as a means of gaining its political ends, the memorandum says:

"Since the beginning of 1945, the Jewish community have implicitly claimed this right and have been supported by an organized commission of lawlessness, murder and sabotage, their contention being that whatever other interest might be served, nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of a Jewish State and Jewish immigration into Palestine."

Again the Palestine Government, in a statement issued on the 1st of March, 1948, declared that the Jewish Agency refused to cooperate with the Government in order to stop these outrages. The statement runs as follows:

"The Invitation was declined by the Agency on the ground that it was contrary to the Jewish political interests.....

"Since that time, the outrages committed by these groups have not only continued but have increased in numbers and barbarity. It is unnecessary to catalogue the enormities perpetrated by these people in the past year, and it is perhaps sufficient to recall such incidents as the murder by hanging, in every circumstance of brutality, of two innocent members of the security forces; the numerous occasions on which members of these forces have been treacherously shot dead from behind; the deliberate demolition of buildings with the certain consequence of death and injury to women and children; the planned killing of certain foreign nationals; the intentional shooting of British wounded in hospital; armed robberies and extortions; and finally the outrage committed yesterday in which 28 British soldiers have lost their lives....."

"The leaders of the Jewish community have felt themselves unable, for political reasons, to take any steps to bring to justice the persons responsible for these crimes and have thus facilitated the spread of lawlessness and disorder to a point at which the community itself is threatened with destruction by elements within itself. In this neglect of its responsibilities the Jewish Agency has attempted to excuse itself by resort to calculated innuendoes, falsehoods and propaganda directed against British members of the Security Forces who are in fact every day protecting Jewish property and saving hundreds of Jewish lives, even at the risk of their own."

Jewish Agency Controls Broadcasting Station of the Jewish Terrorist Movement:

The Jewish terrorist movement has a secret broadcasting station called the Voice of Israel (Kol Israel) which broadcasts with jubilation the news of Jewish outrages and spreads the most seditious propaganda. This station is set up by Jewish experts and with Jewish Agency money. It is truly the voice of the Jewish Agency. Included in the documentary evidence which was published by the British Government in the "White Paper of 1946 was a telegram sent to "Daniel" in London from Sneh in Jerusalem on the 12th of May, 1946, which states:

"Please pass on to Ben Gurion the text of the broadcast of Kol Israel sent herewith; with a note that the broadcast was made at the request of Shortok".

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"Many messages of heartfelt appreciation were sent by various personalities and journalists to the Resistance Movement for the renewal of its activity as a result of the delaying policy of the British Government.."

When the Jewish Agency and its terrorist organizations were directing their operations - against the British - several hundred Arabs were killed, and several hundred more were injured. Jubilant as they were about the results of their criminal assaults against the Government, and noticing that the Arabs were not retaliating or attacking the Jews, although innocent Arab blood was shed at their hands, the Zionists concluded that the Arabs would not fight back, and that they could terrorize them into submission. Thus, under the supervision and direction of the Jewish Agency, the most dastardly crimes were perpetrated also against the Arabs during this period.

This policy clearly shows that the Jewish Agency, after thirty years of experience, has never formulated a true conception, or even a notion, of the mentality and character of the Arabs. The well-planned and cowardly hit-and-run operations against the Arabs in order to terrorize them, resulting in the violent death of their women folk and children, have served only to arouse the Arabs. They have confirmed Arab fears, as well as their conviction of the cowardly and base ways of the Zionists. They have spurred their determination to exterminate Jewish terrorism. The Arabs know that those cowards who are known by various glamorous and honorific names - "Jewish militia", "underground forces" and "Resistance movement" - cannot fight face to face as men, but have to sneak disguised in Arab clothes or in British uniforms to commit their depredations, and then to run unnoticed. In the very few instances when Hagana members were face to face with Arab nationalists, they fled in fear and were wiped out.

Old Methods Revived:

Several years ago Dr. Judah Magnes, head of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, declared that the ways of Joshua were not the ways of the Jews of today. When he said this he was bitterly critical of the violent and terroristic policies being followed by the main body of official Zionists. It is pertinent here to ask, What were those methods of Joshua and his successors, of which the current terrorist crimes of the Zionists are a fresh and vivid reminder?

No better answer can be given than the recital of certain passages from the Old Testament, which are by no means exhaustive. In these passages we see the "precedent" and the "tradition" which have been followed so fanatically, so furiously and so blindly by the Zionists of today:

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"And when the Lord thy God hath delivered it (Palestine) into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword: But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the Lord thy God hath given thee, Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of the nations. But of the cities of these people, which the Lord thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheh: But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee." (Deut. 20: 13-17 incl.)

"And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city (Jericho), both men and women, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword." (Joshua 6:21)

"So Joshua smote all the country of the hills, and of the south, and of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the Lord God of Israel commanded." (Joshua 10:40)

"And he (David) brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brick-kiln; and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon..." (II Sam. 12:31.)

These are the totalitarian atrocities which the Jewish terrorists, backed by the Hagana and the Jewish Agency, are reviving today in modern Palestine, and only a few years removed in time from the horrible and heart-rending atrocities visited upon the Jews themselves by the Nazis.

(The facts of the following outrages are taken from the Palestine Government releases and publications and from records of the Arab Higher Committee.)

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INCIDENTS OF JEWISH TERRORISMThefts of Arms and Explosives by HaganaMarch, 1943:

During this month government sources reported "a notable increase in the number of thefts of arms and explosives." This led to the trial of two British officers implicated in a huge plot by the Hagana and its ramifications to steal arms.

Cut Girls' HairAugust, 1943:

In August, 1943, posters and circulars appeared in Tel Aviv denouncing (Jewish) girls by name for consorting with non-Jews. The hair of many of those girls was forcibly cut by Zionists. This led to an affray on September 4th, in which 23 civilians were injured.

Government Transport Agency DestroyedJanuary, 1944:

January, 1944, witnessed the revival of a campaign of death and destruction by the Jewish terrorists. This was marked with explosions in the Government Transportation Agency parking space in Jaffa.

Tampering with Cathedral's WallFebruary 3, 1944:

Two Jews were surprised tampering with the wall of St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem. From articles left behind it was concluded that the culprits were engaged in the installation of an "infernal machine" at the gate of the Cathedral through which the British High Commissioner was wont to pass on his way to Sunday service.

Explosions in Department of MigrationFebruary 12, 1944:

On February 12 there were explosions in the office of the Department of Migration in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa with considerable damage to the buildings.

Bombing Police HeadquartersFebruary 24, 1944:

The Police Headquarters of Haifa was bombed, causing considerable damage and casualties in personnel.

Bombing Income Tax OfficesFebruary 26, 1944:

The income tax offices of Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv were heavily damaged by bombs planted by Jewish terrorists.

Eight British Policemen MurderedMarch 23, 1944:

During the month of March there were isolated murders of policemen

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in Palestine, but on March 23rd, 1944, eight policemen were murdered by shooting and bombs, and serious damage was done to police buildings of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jaffa.

Broadcasting Station Attacked

May 17, 1944:

The Ramallah wireless station, where the wireless installations are grouped, was attacked in an abortive attempt to broadcast therefrom.

Offices Attacked and Casualties Inflicted

July 14, 1944:

The district police headquarters and district land registry offices at Jerusalem were attacked and severely damaged by explosives and fires. Police casualties were inflicted and the land registry records destroyed.

Attempts on High Commissioner's Life Made

August 8, 1944:

A deliberate attempt was made on the life of British High Commissioner and Lady MacMichael as they were proceeding to a municipal farewell function at Jaffa.

Police Buildings Attacked

September 22, 27, 29, 1944:

On August 22, three police buildings in Jaffa and Tel Aviv were attacked with loss of life; on the 27th four police stations were attacked with casualties to Palestinian police personnel, and on the 29th a senior police officer was assassinated on his way to the office.

Department of Light Industries Raided

October 5, 1944:

The Tel Aviv offices and stores of the Department of Light Industries were raided by some 50 members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and textiles valued at L.P. 100,000 (c. \$400,000.) were removed.

Palestine Railways Attacked

October 31, 1945:

Incidents like this continued throughout 1945. On October 31 of that year a "concerted" series of attacks by armed Jews on the Palestine railway system was made, culminating in a full-scale attack on the Lydda railway station and goods depot. The main line was blown up and cut up in 242 places. Casualties included one British soldier, one Palestinian policeman and one Palestinian railwayman killed. On the same night police launches at Haifa and Jaffa were blown up by limpet bombs and an unsuccessful attempt made on the Consolidated Refineries installation at Haifa. These operations were the combined work of the Haganah, Irgun and Stern Gang.

Lord Moyne Assassinated

November 6, 1944:

On November 6, 1944 in Cairo two members of the Stern Gang attacked and killed in broad day light and in the open Lord Moyne, British Minister of State for the Middle East.

A few days later, on November 17, Mr. Churchill made a statement in the House of Commons on this crime, in which he said:

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"If our dreams for Zionism are to end in the smoke of assassin's pistols and our labors for its future are to produce a new set of gangsters worthy of Nazi Germany, many like myself will have to reconsider the position we have maintained so consistently and so long in the past. If there is to be any hope of a peaceful and successful future for Zionism, those wicked activities must cease and those responsible for them must be destroyed, root and branch."

Mr. Churchill demanded the whole-hearted cooperation of the entire Jewish community of Palestine in suppressing the terrorist campaign. The cooperation was not forthcoming. Instead, the terrorist wave waxed strong in violence, daring and extent.

It is appropriate here to recall what William Zukerman said in The American Hebrew, November 24th, 1944:

"If ever there was a man who symbolized England of his time it is Mr. Churchill. The truth is, that the British, as a people do not understand political terror, and they have a natural abhorrence for it. They fail to see the glamour which many Europeans, particularly East European peoples envisage in a terroristic act."

This glamour which members of the Jewish Agency envisage in these outrages is echoed by Ben Hecht when he says in "LETTER TO THE TERRORISTS OF PALESTINE" which appeared in an advertisement in the May 14th, 1947 issue of The New York Post by a group called The Palestine Resistance Fund:

"Every time you wreck a British jail, or send a British railroad train sky high, or rob a British Bank or let go with your guns and bombs at the British, the Jews of America make a little holiday in their hearts."

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Police Stations Attacked

December 27, 1945:

Police headquarters in Jerusalem, police stations in Jaffa and Tel Aviv and a military depot in Tel Aviv were attacked by large armed gangs of the Jewish terrorists. Severe damages were caused to the police buildings by explosives. Two British constables, one Arab telephone operator, one British soldier and 4 Basuto soldiers were killed, and others were wounded.

On these events the Palestine Government stated:

"As the growing audacity and ruthlessness of the terrorists became more apparent with each new stroke, the dominant note of the Jewish community as a whole became one of greater complacency towards these displays of organization and strength of the armed forces of the Jewish Community."

Killed in Cold Blood

April 25, 1946:

Jewish terrorists attacked British soldiers guarding a car parking lot and seven soldiers were killed. An eyewitness account of the attack related that the unarmed men were shot in cold-blood as raiders went from tent to tent (there were 3 tents in the car park) firing at point-blank range. In one instance two soldiers were killed as they lay resting on their beds.

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Another, who was found shot through the mouth and chest 150 yards from the car park, was also unarmed.

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Kidnap Officers

June 18, 1946:

Armed Jews entered the Officers Club in Tel Aviv, kidnapped six officers, tied their hands and feet and put them inside crates with hinged lids. They were put into the cellar of a house in the heart of the city for several hours, then chained hand and foot. Two of the men were struck with pieces of iron while attempting to resist. These officers were detained as hostages, maltreated and then released.

King David Hotel Crime Shocks World

July 22, 1946:

Jewish terrorism in Palestine was not abated in 1946. On the contrary, fed by financial and moral support from their brethren and sympathizers abroad, the terrorists' lust for blood and destruction was sharpened. In this year one of the most dastardly and cowardly crimes in recorded history took place. We refer to the blowing up of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

Ninety-two persons lost their lives in that stealthy attack, and 45 were injured, among whom there were many high officials, junior officers and office personnel, both men and women. The King David Hotel was used as an office housing the Secretariat of the Palestine Government and British Army Headquarters. The attack was made at about 12:00 o'clock noon when offices are usually in full swing. The attackers, disguised as milkmen, carried the explosives in milk containers, placed them in the basement of the Hotel and ran away.

Speaking in the House of Commons on this hideous and cowardly crime of Zionist terrorism, Mr. Attlee said:

"Members will have learnt with horror of the brutal and murderous crime committed yesterday in Jerusalem. Of all the outrages which have occurred in Palestine, and they have been many and horrible in the last few months, this is the worst."

The Chief Secretary for the Government of Palestine, Sir John Shaw, declared in a broadcast:

"As head of the Secretariat, the majority of the dead and wounded were my own staff, many of whom I have known personally for eleven years. They are more than official colleagues. British, Arabs, Jews, Greeks, Armenians; senior officers, clerks, police, my orderly, my chauffeur, messengers, guards, men and women, - young and old - they were my friends.

"No man could wish to be served by a more industrious, loyal and honest group of ordinary decent people. Their only crime was their devoted, unselfish and impartial service to Palestine and its peoples. For this they have been rewarded by cold-blooded mass murder."

Although members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi took responsibility for this crime, yet they also made it public later that they obtained the consent and approval of the Hagana Command, and it follows, that of the Jewish Agency.

Bomb Police Trolley Kill 6

November 13, 1946:

Four Arab and two British Police constables were killed by Jewish terrorists when a police trolley was blown up.

Killed by Explosion

November 18, 1946:

One English captain and 4 soldiers were killed and six injured in one

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day of terrorism. The Captain was killed by a land mine explosion near Ras El-Ain; the other casualties resulted when Jewish terrorists blew up a police truck between Tel Aviv and Sarona.

Another Explosion - Other Victims

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December 2, 1946:

Four British soldiers were killed when Jewish terrorist-placed mine blew up a jeep on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road.

Kidnapped and Flogged

December 26, 1946:

Four British army personnel were kidnapped as hostages while off duty from Hotel Metropol in Nathania, from a cafe at Rishon and from Hotel Armon in Tel Aviv. The officers were stripped and flogged in the most barbaric manner. One of the victims, S/Sgt. Gillam describing the incident in evidence said:

"I was sitting with four friends in a Rishon Cafe when suddenly the music stopped. Four armed men entered. They quickly searched me, finding I was unarmed they took me out and pushed me across the road at the point of a revolver up a sandy track of about 50 yards. Then one man stood on each side of me. I was then told to strip, but I did not seem to be doing it fast enough for them and they took off the rest of my clothes. One of the men pushed my arms behind my back and another forced my head between my legs. I was flogged with something flexible with something heavy at the end. They stopped beating me after the 8th lash, pushed my face on the ground and ran away."

Another victim, S/Sgt. Bentham described what happened to him:

"They pushed us into a waiting car, and we were taken to a piece of waste ground near the Zoo. Our hands were tied behind our backs and we were told to get against the wall. There were ten armed men and they gave both of us 18 lashes each. They whipped me with something like thin black cable and I got it mostly across my back. Only one man whipped me, but three of them took turns with Wright."

"As they finished the whipping the men seemed to be getting hysterical and some of them were giggling."

Vehicle Loaded With Explosives

January 12, 1947:

Two British constables and two Arab constables were killed, two other British constables were dangerously and 7 seriously injured and more than 100, including many women and children, were injured with varying degrees of severity, when a vehicle loaded with explosives was driven by Jewish terrorists and abandoned near the Police Headquarters and place of residence of British families of the police force.

British Judge Abducted

January 27, 1947:

While Judge Ralph Windham, President of the District Court of Tel Aviv, was trying a case, fourteen Jewish terrorists burst into the court room at noon and cowed advocates, litigants and spectators. Simultaneously three other terrorists appeared from the judge's private entrance and pointed their guns at the bewigged, robed judge. When the judge resisted he was hit on the head and dragged out of the court. He was carried away as a hostage for a Jewish terrorist convicted of murder and sabotage and sentenced to death. The judge was kept prisoner by the terrorists for several days and was only released after the British authorities threatened the Jewish Agency with drastic measures. The Agency and the Municipality of Tel Aviv used their influence before the judge was released.

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Twenty Killed When Officers Club Was DemolishedFebruary 28, 1947:

A series of terrorist outrages over the week-end of the 28th of February, culminated in a dastardly and cowardly attack on the British officers club in Jerusalem, where officers were resting in the lull of a peaceful sabbath. The lives of twenty officers were snuffed out before they realized what had happened. At 2:30 P.M. Jewish terrorists quietly walked to the officers' building which was not far from the headquarters of the Jewish Agency. They killed the guard and gained entrance into the building, where they placed high explosives in the lobby and ran away. In a few minutes the whole building tumbled down in ruin with a terrific explosion. Among those killed were military officers, police and civilians.

Refineries DamagedMarch 31, 1947:

Damage estimated at LP 300,000 (c. \$1,200,000) was caused by terrorist sabotage to the oil refineries of Haifa.

Red Cross Clinics Bombed and Red Cross Convalescent Depot Cinema Blown UpApril 18, 1947:

A group of Jews drove into the Army Red Cross Building, 61 Field Dressing Station, in Nathanias. One British sentry was killed. The medical inspection room adjoining a ward containing sick men, was blown up. The Army Red Cross Building had two Red Cross flags flying and five notice boards prominently displayed.

Two days later a bomb was thrown at the Red Cross Convalescent depot cinema when six British soldiers were injured.

Train Derailed, 8 Killed and 21 InjuredApril 22, 1947:

A Cairo-Haifa train was blown up near Rehovoth by Jewish terrorists. Five British and three Arabs were killed. 23 British and 4 Arabs were injured.

Hagana Attacks Arab CafeMay 21, 1947:

A band of armed Jews attacked a cafe in the Arab village of Fajja, near Petah Tikva, shooting one Arab dead, wounding seven others and placing explosive charges in the premises. A second band attacked an Arab encampment in the neighborhood and shot one Arab dead. A communication to the Hebrew press by the Hagana claimed responsibility for these outrages.

Explosive Letters Sent to British LeadersJune 6, 1948:

Twenty "explosive letters" in all were sent at various times to British high officials, including Prime Minister Attlee, Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, Winston Churchill, Herbert Morrison, etc. Leaders of the Stern Gang finally admitted they were the senders of those letters, which when opened would explode and maim or kill the receiver.

Kidnap Two British OfficersJune 9-10, 1947:

Two British members of the Palestine Police Force were kidnapped by armed Jews from a swimming pool near Ramat Gan. They were stripped, flogged and held as hostages. They were released only after the British forces cordoned the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Shaul.

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Jews Meet Palestine Committee

29

June 19-24, 1947:

The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) had been only a few days in Palestine when it began to witness acts of Jewish terrorism, in spite of the appeal addressed to these terrorists to stop all acts of terrorism. On June 19th a truck loaded with dynamite exploded near a British girls' high school in Haifa. The Associated Press quotes a private source that the truck was being delivered to Jewish terrorists when it exploded. On June 22 Jewish terrorists tried to kidnap a British officer 300 yards from the Y.M.C.A. building where members of UNSCOP were staying. On June 24th, a terrorist hand grenade exploded 50 yards from the Palestine military courts. A few days later - June 30 - UNSCOP denounced terrorism in Palestine as a flagrant violation of the UN resolution of May 15th.

Field Ambulance Blown UpJuly 23, 1947:

A field ambulance unit truck was blown up by Jewish terrorists on the Haifa-Jaffa Road. Two soldiers of No. 2 Field Ambulance were killed.

British Sergeants Held as Hostages,
Hanged and Booby-TrappedJuly 31, 1948:

On July 12th Stern gang terrorists kidnapped two British sergeants - Paice aged 20 and Martin, aged 21 - as hostages for three Jewish terrorists who were being tried by the military court for murder and sabotage. The two sergeants were murdered by hanging and on July 31st the two blackened bodies of the sergeants were found hanging from twin eucalyptus trees. One of the bodies was booby-trapped, and when it fell to the ground it set off a mine, blowing that body to pieces which were difficult to collect. A British Captain nearby was seriously injured. This revolting crime aroused the wrath of the whole civilized world.

Three Constables KilledAugust 5, 1947:

Thirty-five Zionist leaders were being sent to Latrun detention camp when a bomb placed by Jewish terrorists in the Labor Department of the Palestine Government exploded, killing three constables.

Arab Family of Seven Blown UpAugust 15, 1947:

At about 1:20 A. M. between 15 and 20 Jewish terrorists, armed with machine guns and pistols, entered the orange grove of Haj Rashid Abu Laban situated between Jaffa and Mulabis. They approached a house in the said grove where a family of 7 were sound asleep inside and there were 9 other labourers asleep nearby. The terrorists threw mines around the building and exploded them with electric wires found on the scene of the crime. The building was razed to the ground. Four of the labourers who were sleeping nearby were caught and shot. The whole family of seven who died under the debris were:

Yusif Debassi		50 years old		
Khadra	" -His Wife	40	"	"
Mohammad	Son	22	"	"
Wafieh	Daughter	10	"	"
Huda	"	8	"	"
Nada	"	7	"	"
Yahia	Son	3	"	"

The responsibility for this outrageous act was jubilantly claimed by Hagana. This was one of the measures taken by the Jewish Agency to terrorize the Arabs into submission. The damage caused to the above was estimated at \$80,000.

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Terrorists Slay 4 British Police, Seize \$180,000

30

September 26, 1947:

A band of Jewish terrorists intercepted an armored car before the Barclay Bank building in Tel Aviv, killed four British policemen and escaped with \$1800,000.

Woman, Child Among Wounded

October 9-10, 1947:

A group of Jews, armed with bombs and automatics, attacked two Arab tents in the lands of Majdal Sadek and killed two Arabs and wounded four. Among the latter were a woman and her young son.

Cowardly Disguise

October 20, 1947:

A band of Jews disguised in British military uniforms, near Raanana called out Shaykh Ahmed Salameh Shobaki and four young men related to him, pretending to search for arms. On coming out in response to what they thought was an official military mission, the five men were shot in cold blood.

Hagana Sets Fire to Arab Cinema

December 12, 1947:

Members of Hagana, with the help of a Jewish police officer, set fire to one of the largest Arab picture houses in Jerusalem, namely Cinema Rex.

The Haifa Oil Refinery Bombs

December 30, 1947:

The occupants of a Jewish pick-up car threw two milk cans containing bombs at a group of about two hundred Arab laborers standing at the gate of the oil refinery waiting to register for work. The explosions that rocked the city of Haifa killed six Arab laborers and wounded forty-six, twenty-five seriously.

Hagana Terrorists Throw Bombs in Arab Street

January 1, 1948:

Jewish terrorists in a stolen armoured police car passed by the triangle crossing of Mamilla Road, Princess Mary Avenue and St. Julian Way and threw a bomb into a crowded Arab Street. The bomb exploded, killing 15 Arabs and seriously injuring 42. One of the victims killed was a popular traffic policeman, Hassan, well known to Jerusalemites as the "Humorous Policeman".

Hagana Attack

January 1, 1948:

At about one o'clock in the morning the villagers of Balad El-Sheikh and Hanasa were asleep. Hagana men disguised in British uniforms made a surprise attack bombing and demolishing houses, shooting and killing the villagers without discriminating between men and women and children. Among those killed were a pregnant woman, 35 years old, and a child eleven years old, and five other men, while thirty-two were wounded, twenty-five, seriously, among them many women and children.

Mining Jaffa Welfare Center By Stern and Irgun Gangs

January 4, 1948:

At 12:25 P.M. two Jewish terrorists, one driving a truck loaded with time bombs and the other driving a jeep, both as usual in British uniforms, drove to the end of a lane between the Arab welfare and relief center housing children and women and the Barclays Bank. The truck was driven

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into the lane and left there, and the driver was picked up by the jeep driver who was waiting for him. As they drove away the whole town was rocked by the powerful explosion and many distant buildings were damaged by the concussion. The welfare center was demolished, 17 Arabs were killed in this cold-blooded murderous attack and 106 were wounded. Among those killed and seriously wounded were women and children.

Hagana Blast Simiramis Hotel

Hagana terrorists made a most barbarous attack at one o'clock in the early morning of Monday the 5th of January, 1948, at the Simiramis Hotel in the Katamon section of Jerusalem, killing innocent people and wounding many. The Jewish Agency underground forces blasted the entrance to the hotel by a small bomb and then placed bombs in the basement of the building. As a result of the explosions the whole building collapsed with its residents still in it. As the terrorists withdrew, they started shooting at the houses in the neighborhood. Those killed were:

Subhi El-Taher	Moslem	Abu Suwan Family, 7 members,
Mary Masoud	Christian	Husband, Wife and 5
Georgette Khoury	"	Children
Abas Awad	Moslem	
Nazira Lorenzo	Christian	
Mary Lorenzo	"	
Mohammed Saleh Ahmed	Moslem	
Ashur Abed El Razik	"	
Ismail Abed El Aziz	"	
Ambeer Lorenzo	Christian	

Beside those killed, sixteen more were wounded, among them women and children.

Jewish Terrorism in Indiscriminate Bombing

January 7, 1948:

At 4:15 P.M. Jewish murderers drove an armoured police car to that section of Jaffa gate in Jerusalem where Arab fruit peddlers park their carts and tossed a very powerful bomb into their midst, then speeded away swerving towards Mamila Road. A fourteen year old Arab, seeing what had happened, tossed a small bomb at the car which stopped it immediately. Three terrorists were killed and two were wounded. Arabs killed - Fourteen:

Isa Abou Halawa	Christian
Ishah Kolbo	Moslem
Ahmed Taha el-Bazlit	"
Hayk Jackian	Armenian Christian
Awad Mohammed	Moslem
Soubhi Rabah Barakat	"
Hasan Mohammed Batroukh	"
Mohammed Mahmoud Jaber	"
May Majaj	Christian
Hanna Samain Abdo	"
Isa Tabnan	"
Zalek Ahmed Dana	Moslem

and many others whose identity was unknown. Those wounded were 35, some seriously. Among these were young children and women.

Jewish Terrorism

January 19, 1948:

At 12:05 in the afternoon, three occupants of a green painted Jewish pick-up car were on the Jaffa-Jerusalem Road. As they approached an Arab grove they dropped a box on which was written in English "Soap". It exploded causing a large crater in the ground. Some of its splinters killed a woman and a child instantly. Later the same car passed the patrons of the coffee houses at Sarafand and its occupants started firing three bullets and hit Abed El-Zahir, Mohammed El-Ihirkawi, 23 years old, killing him. Six other men were wounded and removed to hospital at Jaffa. A further attempt was made to bomb a bus but the hand grenade did not explode.

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Attack Defenseless Women....January 19, 1948:

Jewish terrorists appear to have concentrated their attention on attacking defenseless women, children and aged men. Under the cover of darkness at half past one in the morning of Monday, the 19th of January, 1948, about two hundred Jewish terrorists attacked Tamra village near Acre, approaching it from its Westerly direction. Bren guns and hand grenades were used, causing damage to certain houses.

Two Arabs were killed, a woman of 70 years of age and two others were seriously wounded.

Jewish Terrorists Blast Eleven Arab HousesJanuary 21, 1948:

On Wednesday morning the 21st of January, 1948, Jewish terrorists were seen trying to enter certain Arab houses in the border area of Jaffa-Tel Aviv. When the Arab National Guards opened fire at them they withdrew, but it appears they had mined certain Arab houses, as suddenly explosions were heard and eleven Arab houses blew up. The cost of the damage exceeded \$200,000.

Murder British Patients in HospitalsFebruary 23, 1948:

Shortly after dusk several masked Jewish terrorists broke into the Wallach hospital, Jerusalem, where two British wounded policemen were lying in bed. The terrorists shot both, killing one and seriously injuring the other before running away and vanishing.

At the same time other Jewish terrorists broke into a Hadassah clinic, also in Jerusalem, where they killed another British policeman, who was at that time a patient in the clinic.

Shell Maternity WardFebruary 24, 1948:

The Hagana terrorist organization, using concealed mortars, bombarded indiscriminately some sections of Jerusalem.

Three shells were fired, one falling on the maternity ward of the Government Hospital causing great damage to the building and creating great panic among mothers in their confinement period.

The other shell exploded on the roof of the Post Office and the third bomb exploded on St. Paul's Road in the vicinity of Barclay's Bank, in the Arab section.

Jews Storm Military CourtFebruary 25, 1948:

At 2:15 P. M. Jewish terrorists raided the British military court building in Jerusalem, killed an Arab policeman and wounded another. They placed two bombs in the hallway of the building which did not explode.

Kidnap Consul and NewspapermanFebruary 28, 1948:

The former Polish Consul and a Polish newspaperman were kidnapped by Jewish terrorists, and after a few days of torture, the two were found shot dead.

Blow Up TrainFebruary 29th, 1948:

Jewish terrorists blow up three cars on the Cairo-Haifa train near Rehovoth south of Tel Aviv by land mines. 30 British soldiers died and 40 were injured. The powerful blasts shattered the cars and flung wreckage and

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bodies into the orange groves. Examination of the unexploded mine showed that the others had been carefully buried under ballast and set off electrically from a post behind the trees. 33

Plant Bomb in Car

February 29, 1948:

Jewish terrorists placed a bomb in a car belonging to the Arab chief clerk of the Haifa Municipality while parked in a Jewish area. The chief clerk drove the car into a garage in the morning for repair. As he walked out with the Arab garage proprietor, the bomb exploded. The explosion blew the car to pieces, destroyed the garage and two nearby houses. 5 Arabs were killed and over 25 seriously injured among whom were many women and children.

Exterminate Arab Village

March 6, 1948:

Members of the Hagana attacked the village of Biyar Addes. They laid bombs in every house of the village, then withdrew and detonated the explosives. The villagers were rendered homeless.

Fire On Business District

March 6, 1948:

Jewish terrorists killed five Arabs and severely damaged three buildings by firing three inch mortar shells into the Arab business district in the harbor area of Haifa. The firing came from Hadar Hacarmel, an all-Jewish business and residential section.

Jewish Outrages Against Christian and Moslem Holy Places

The malicious intentions of the Zionists toward Christian and Moslem Holy Places are well known to the Arab Higher Committee and have been demonstrated since 1920. The following is a quotation from the speech of Lord Sydenham in a debate in the British House of Lords, Tuesday, the 29th of June, 1920, vol. 40 to vol. 52 of the parliamentary Debates:

"I should particularly like to draw your Lordships' attention to the speech made by the Bishop of Jerusalem at a meeting at the Church House, and reported in the Guardian and Church Times. The Bishop said plainly that the present troubles were largely due to the actions and behaviour of the Zionists who are settled in Palestine since the war." He then pointed out that --

"The Zionist Commission had been a very strong body; but it was not strong enough to control all its members, many of whom were extremists.....They had behaved and spoken as if the country had already been given to them and was theirs to dispose of as they would. In ordinary conversation among Zionists at Jerusalem it had been asked, 'What shall be done with the Church of the Holy Sepulchre? Shall it be burned or razed to the ground?'"

Throughout the last 28 years Zionists have always displayed their hostility toward the Christian and Moslem Holy Places. Indeed it is in their program that the Temple of Solomon be erected on the site of the Mosque of Omar, and their contempt and hostility for the Christian and Moslem Holy Places have always been a very serious cause for friction in Palestine.

The following recent incidents show the attitude of Zionists towards the Christian and Moslem Holy Places:

a) On the 20th of November, 1947, Jews smashed the statue of the Virgin Mary in the enclosure of the French Catholic Ratisbonne School. The following is a cable which was received from the Arab Catholic Union:

"NLT PALESTINE ARAB DELEGATION LAKE SUCCESS NEW YORK

JEWISH PERPETRATORS SMASHED STATUE VIRGIN MARY IN ENCLOSURE FRENCH CATHOLIC RATISBONNE SCHOOL THIS DASTARDLY ACTION PRECURSOR WHAT IS

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EXPECTED IN LARGER FORM IF JEWISH STATE REALIZED
ARAB CATHOLIC UNION"

- b) On the 16th of February, 1948, the Jews threw hand grenades into the yard of the German Catholic Church, Jerusalem,
- c) On the same day fire was directed from Jewish automatic arms at Al Aqsa Mosque (Mosque of Omar) from nests in the synagogue of the Old City.
- d) Also on the same day at 4:30 P.M., a bomb was thrown by Hagana members into the garden of Dormitio Abbey, Mt. Zion, which caused damage to part of the building and barely missed two Fathers who were in the vicinity.
- e) The Sayyidna Okasheh Mosque, Chancellor Road, Jerusalem, was profaned by members of the Hagana in a most revolting manner and the shrine was also ruined by them.
- f) On or about the 19th of February, 1948, the Immam (Moslem Spiritual Head) and the servants of the Sayyidna Ali Shrine in the Ramleh Area, were forced out of the shrine by armed Jews. Some furniture was stolen, and Jewish super-numerary policemen occupied the shrine.

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PALESTINE

E 3519

16 MAR 1948

Registry Number } E3519/4/31

FROM

U.K. Del

No.

New York

Dated

Commnd.

Received in Registry

16th Mar

Memoranda on Palestine.

Transmits P(NY) 37. being letter dated 3rd March from Fletcher Cooke to M. de Medina. concerning public information services and facilities in Palestine.

Last Paper.

3576 (2733)

(Minutes.)

References.

- 2) P(NY) 38 3/3
- 3) P(NY) 39 4/3
- 4) " 40 8/3
- 5) " 41 1/3
- 6) " 42 11/3
- 7) " 43 12/3
- 8) " 44 12/3

(Print.)

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3. Matkason. 60 April 12

(Action completed.)

G. L. 29/4

(Index.)

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Next Paper.

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9) P(NY) 48 15/3

M2 by 19 Mar 20

26513 F.O.P.

For earlier pp. in this series, see E 2733.

~~No. 37 seems to be missing.~~

No. 42 is interesting, and shows that the

Delegation have successfully countered the implication, in the questions recently presented to them, that the Arabs are solely responsible for disorder in Palestine.

H. B. C. 17/3

J. H. 3
18/3

D. B. C. 20/3

P.T.O.

H.B. 20/3

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G.P.P. P(NY) 45 15/3 } Mr Butler
 " 46 13/3 }
 " 47 15/3 ← Mr Bailey should see
 " 49 15/3
 " 50 18/3 } Mr Butler
 " 51 18/3 }

D.B. Alford
 25/3

G.P.P. P(NY) 52 20/3
 " " 53 22/3
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 " " 58 25/3

These may all be used by Arab posts,
 except for numbers 47 and 54. Tel. sent.

H.B. 6
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G.P.P. P(NY) 59 1/4
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Mr Butler
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H.B. 21/4

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10 Apr 28
 Mr Butler

H.B. 28/4

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E 3519

16 MAR 1948

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P(N.Y) 37

Palestine Distribution

3rd March, 1948

(Dear Monsieur de Medina),

May I refer you to the note enclosed in Sir Alexander Cadogan's letter to you of 23rd February concerning public information services and facilities in Palestine.

I have now received additional information on some of the points raised by you which is as follows:-

Question 5.

(a) A comprehensive memorandum on Cable and Wireless facilities in Palestine is being prepared and will be forwarded to you for the information of the Commission as soon as it is received.

(b) The figure of 150,000 words per diem referred to in (ii) of the Answer to Question 5 is the combined total of both paid and unpaid groups (i.e. service messages and unpaid service indicators on paid messages, etc.) The figures given by the Company in respect of paid groups only are:-

- (1) Jerusalem wireless circuit 40,000 to 50,000 daily. (this figure could be increased if a larger staff were available).
- (2) Haifa cable route 63,000 groups daily.
- (3) Haifa wireless circuit when it is opened in the middle of May 40,000 to 50,000 groups daily.

Question 6.

One of the medium wave transmitters referred to in the first sentence of the answer to Question 6 is the property of His Majesty's Government. Negotiations are in progress for its transfer to the Government of Palestine.

Question 13.

The frequencies in use in Palestine may be divided into the following categories:-

- (1) Internal and external aeronautical and other services operated by the Government of Palestine. These frequencies will remain at the disposal of the Commission.
- (2) Medium wave broadcast services operated by the Government of Palestine. These will also remain at the disposal of the Commission. (All medium frequencies for

/broadcasting.....

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(3) Frequencies used by various enterprises in Palestine, e.g. the Iraq Petroleum Company. These frequencies can remain in use as at present.

- (4) Frequencies used by Cable and Wireless Company for the operation of external services under concession from the Government of Palestine. These frequencies are and will continue to be used in the operation of external services carried on in Palestine by Cable and Wireless Company under their existing concession. If Cable and Wireless Company should leave Palestine and the operation of external telecommunication services be taken over by the Commission, then so far as His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom is concerned, the frequencies would remain for their existing registered purposes. The Services concerned are Palestine - United Kingdom, Palestine - United States of America, Palestine-Egypt and Palestine - Cyprus.

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

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Palestine Distribution

3rd March, 1948

[My dear Bunche]

I enclose a copy of the text of a Question and Answer in the House of Commons of March 1st, dealing with the train outrage in Palestine on February 27th.

You will see that in answering the Question, the Colonial Office spokesman gave a number of quotations from the statement issued by the Government of Palestine of March 1st, of which I believe you have already received copies.

Yours sincerely,

(Traiford Smith)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
New York.

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39

Text of question and answer in House of Commons, 1st March.

BEGINS.

Mr. Eden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any statement to make on the mining of the Cairo-Haifa train yesterday.

Answer. It is with the deepest possible regret that His Majesty's Government announce that at approximately 4.40 in the morning of the 19th February the passenger train from Bentary to Haifa was blown up by unknown persons a short distance north of Ichovoth Railway Station. The train consisted of 13 coaches 5 of which were military and the last 3 coaches which contained military personnel only were completely wrecked. The following casualties, all British service personnel, were caused by the explosion. Dead 27, dangerously wounded 6, seriously wounded 9, slightly wounded 20. The casualties were cleared by 10.30 a.m. and were admitted to the British Military Hospital at Beer Yacov. On investigation it was found that 4 charges had been laid under sleepers approximately 10 yards apart. Three of these had been detonated and the fourth, which failed to explode, was found to contain 100 pounds of ammonal in sandbags. All four charges were wired to an ignition point in an area some 500 yards from the track. No assistance was given to military personnel who were carrying out investigations of persons in the locality. There is no information available as to the identity of persons responsible for this outrage except a report that the Stern Gang have claimed responsibility. I wish on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine to express deep sympathy with the relatives of those who lost their lives as a result of this shocking outrage. A statement has been issued by the Government of Palestine in Jerusalem today recalling the catalogue of enormities perpetrated by Jewish terrorists in recent months and drawing attention to the failure of the Jewish Community to assist in bringing the guilty to justice and in particular the refusal to give evidence in the official police inquiry into the Ben Yehuda Street explosion. "The Leaders of the Jewish Community" the statement declares,

/" will it....

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"have felt themselves unable for political reasons to take any steps to bring to justice the persons responsible for these crimes and have thus facilitated the spread of lawlessness and disorder to a point at which the community itself is threatened with destruction by elements within itself. In this neglect of its responsibilities the Jewish Agency has attempted to excuse itself by resort to calculated innuendoes, falsehoods and propaganda directed against British members of the Security Forces who are, in fact, every day protecting Jewish property and saving hundreds of civilian lives even at the risk of their own". Referring to the Ben Yehuda Street outrage the statement points out that "in spite of official denials the Jewish Agency has repeated that it was a British Army Convoy that was responsible" and continues "nobody outside Jewish circles believes this and there can be no other purpose in repeating it than to stir up racial hatred. The fact is that the vehicles responsible for this outrage were no more a British Army Convoy than the vehicles stolen from time to time by Jews and used by them on numerous occasions for the murder of many more people than were killed in Ben Yehuda Street". The statement concludes "The Government, mindful of the duty of the Security Forces to maintain law and order and confronted with the deliberate policy of the Jewish Agency to render their task as difficult as possible, desires now to bring once more to the serious attention of the Jewish community in Palestine the fact that the continuance of indiscriminate murder and condoned terrorism can lead only to the forfeiture by the community of all right in the eyes of the world to be numbered among civilised peoples".

Mr. Eden: I am sure the whole House will endorse what the Honourable Gentleman said at the end of his statement. Does he recall that some little time ago I asked him whether the Authorities on the spot had taken every step to put the Armed Forces on a war footing because it is clear that we are dealing with a completely ruthless enemy. May I ask him whether he is satisfied that that is now being done. For instance, were all the military precautions

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which would have been taken if the Armed Forces were on a far footing taken in this case. It seems to us that some further precautions will have to be taken especially about the movement of bodies of troops of any size by rail.

Mr. Rees Williams: All necessary precautions have been taken but the Right Honourable Gentleman will understand that the protection of a railway line is a very difficult operation. The Military Authorities in Palestine have full power to take whatever measures they deem necessary to protect the lives of the British troops in Palestine.

Mr. Wilson Harris: Can the Minister throw any light on the origin of the explosives? Is it of a type which could be obtained by looting in Palestine itself?

Mr. Rees Williams: Yes Sir.

Air Commodore Harvey: If these men were returning from leave why were they not flown direct from Egypt to Palestine to avoid the necessity of going by rail?

Mr. Rees Williams: I could not answer that question without notice.

Mr. Thomas Reid: Is not the saving of lives in Palestine more important than winning or losing the next election in America?

Squadron Leader Fleming: Is it not a fact that in spite of these repeated outrages martial law has not yet been declared in Palestine?

Mr. Rees Williams: It is a technical point as to whether martial law could give any more protection but if the Military Authorities in Palestine desired to impose martial law His Majesty's Government would accede.

Mr. Eden: This is a matter of far reaching importance and there have been many questions. The position is far from clear. May I ask the Honourable Gentleman and perhaps the Prime Minister too if they would look into this matter and assure us that if martial law would assist the protection of the lives of our troops then martial law will at once be declared?

Mr. Rees Williams:...

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Mr. Rees Williams: We have looked into this matter and the military authorities themselves have not up to now desired to have martial law imposed. It is their decision. The Colonial Office suggested the imposition of martial law and they did not want it.

Mr. Thurtle: In view of the fact that this outrage appears to have had its origin in the outrage in Jerusalem can my Honourable Friend say whether his attention has been drawn to an article in the Jewish Standard of last Saturday which contained all sorts of innuendoes against the British troops and will he take early steps to repudiate the suggestions in the article.

Mr. Rees Williams: I have not read the article but it is now quite clear that British troops were in no way responsible for these incidents and it is a blatant lie to say that they were.

Mr. Eden: I agree but the Honourable Gentleman will recollect that in previous questions references were made to statements containing these innuendoes against the British troops and I think the Honourable Gentleman undertook to consult the Attorney General in the matter. May we know the result of that consultation?

Mr. Rees Williams: The matter is still under consideration. We have not yet had any reply.

Vice Admiral Taylor: Is it not a fact that the Military Authorities have not imposed martial law in Palestine because they have not got sufficient troops to carry it out?

Sir Ralph Glynn: Has not the High Commissioner powers under special ordinance to put into force regulations equivalent to martial law?

Mr. Rees Williams: Yes he has and that is why up to now the military authorities have not decided to impose martial law.

Capt. Marsden: Have the Military Authorities powers within the Commander in Chief's own authority to impose martial law or do they have to get their authority from the High Commissioner or from the Secretary of State?

Mr. Rees Williams: At the present moment the authority rests with the High Commissioner. If martial law were imposed the authority would derive

/from the....

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from the Commander in Chief but that position has not been desired by the Military Authorities in Palestine. If the Commander in Chief desired to impose martial law he should agree to it but he has not yet desired it.

Capt. Marsden: Has not the High Commissioner expressed any views on the subject one way or the other?

Mr. Rees Williams: Yes he has. He has so far acquiesced in the views of the Military Authority.

Sir A. Salter: In view of the Minister's statement on the attitude of the Jewish Agency will he say what steps are being taken in regard to that Agency?

Mr. Rees Williams: That is a matter not under consideration.

Mr. Follick: Can my Honourable Friend say whether a request has yet been received from the Commander in Palestine asking for additional troops to be sent out there to meet the difficult position?

Mr. Rees Williams: No such request has been received.

Sir William Darlings: Has the possibility been considered of placing on all trains on which British troops are travelling representatives of the Local Authority whether Jews or Arabs? In similar circumstances some years ago that practice was followed with great advantage.

Mr. Rees Williams: No.

Mr. Keenan: Could not the Government try to clarify the position so that martial law will be clearer than apparently it is?

ENDS.

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UNITED KINGDOM LEGATION
TO UNITED NATIONS.

4th March 1948.

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PALESTINE DISTRIBUTION

INDEXED

[My dear Lunche]

I enclose a copy of the text of a Question and Answer
in the House of Commons on 3rd March on the subject of
security measures in Palestine.

[Yours sincerely,]

(Trafford Smith)

Dr. Ralph J. Lunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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Text of question and answer in House of Commons 3rd March.

BEGINS:

Mr. Henderson Stewart to ask the Minister of Defence, in view of the increasing lawlessness and outrage in Palestine, what changes of policy in the operation of British Security Forces have been, or are about to be, imposed.

Mr. Alexander: As I explained in the House on 24th February, in answering the Right Honourable Member for Warwick and Leamington, the responsible authorities both civil and military already have full power to take any steps which appear to them necessary either for the protection of the lives of British service personnel in Palestine or for enabling the British forces to discharge their duties.

Mr. Henderson Stewart: Are we to understand then that despite the increasing gravity of the situation and the increasing loss of British life the Government have taken no steps and are proposing to take no steps in the future to tighten up our Security Forces in Palestine?

Mr. Alexander: That question betrays a complete misconception of the position. We have very considerable forces in Palestine; we have a responsible High Commissioner and a very efficient Commander in Chief. We have already assured the House that they have our full support and that whatever representations they make to us will be most carefully considered. I do not think we want to have driving directions given from the back seat.

Earl Winterton: Does the protection to which the Right Honourable Gentleman referred extend to bringing an action for seditious libel against Mr. Abrahams or Abrams who has accused the British Army or police of being responsible for the recent outrage. Will he give further consideration to putting this matter in the hands of the public prosecutor.

Mr. Alexander: I will certainly bring that to the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies whose administrative function it is.

ENDS.

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Palestine Distribution

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL

8th March, 1948.

INDEXED

(Dear Bunche)

May I refer you to the last sentence of Section 3 (Prisoners and Detainees) of paragraph 2 of the note which was submitted to the Commission by Sir Alexander Cadogan on 21st January. Reference was there made to the existence in Kenya of a number of Jewish detainees.

The present position is that there are 291 suspected Jewish terrorists held in detention at Gilgil in Kenya where they have been since March 1947. Previously they had been held in a camp near Asmara after their removal from Palestine for security reasons in 1944.

In the light of recent incidents in Palestine, His Majesty's Government do not propose to return these detainees before the termination of the Mandate, since to do so would add an unjustifiable burden to the High Commissioner's security preoccupations. It may not, moreover, be possible for practical reasons to return them to Palestine until some time after the termination of the Mandate, and the present intention is that they should be shipped so as to arrive not later than the middle of July.

It is presumed that the Commission will not raise any objection to the acceptance of any or all of these persons in Palestine after the date of the termination of the Mandate and I should be grateful if you would confirm this as soon as possible.

(Yours sincerely),

Sgd. (J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations, Lake Success.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

URGENT & CONFIDENTIAL.

8th March, 1948

(Dear Bunche),

You will remember that the other day you asked me whether I could give you any information about the arrangements made for the accommodation of the Secretariat advance party in Jerusalem. Urquhart also spoke to me about this on behalf of the Secretary-General, and I am sending him a copy of this letter.

I have now been informed that on 27th February a telegram was sent from Jerusalem to London, informing the Colonial Office that two flats were being prepared for the reception of the advance party and that food could be delivered by the Police to these flats. At the same time, it was made clear that no staff could be found to look after the Secretariat advance party. It was also pointed out that the military personnel in occupation of these flats, would not be leaving until the evening of 28th February, and it was suggested that a delay in the arrival of the Secretariat advance party of at least forty-eight hours was particularly desirable.

It is understood that by the time this telegram was received in London, Azcarate had already left for Paris. This information was therefore given to the other members of the party who were still in London, but they stated that they were unable to authorise any change of plan without consulting with Azcarate.

The United Nations Office in London then sent a message to Paris to be communicated to Azcarate, informing him

- (a) that accommodation was not likely to be ready until February 29th and that it would be convenient if the party's arrival could be postponed for forty-eight hours;
- (b) that no domestic staff were likely to be available.

It is, therefore, clear, I think, that the advance party were given ample warning of the difficulties with which they would be faced on arrival in Jerusalem, and in particular it was brought to their notice that no domestic staff was likely to be available.

I have now received a further telegram from Jerusalem which was sent off on 6th March and which confirms that the party are cooking their own meals. The hope was expressed that Jewish women servants might start work for them on 7th March. The telegram confirmed that the party are accommodated in two flats containing seven rooms and the usual offices. The Police are providing food, but various
/accessories

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche.
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations, Lake Success.

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accessories are not yet available. It is added that every effort is being made to provide staff and other requirements as soon as possible.

I feel sure that the Government of Palestine would wish me to express to the Commission their regrets for any inconvenience that may have been caused to the advance party, but at the same time I must reiterate that these difficulties were foreseen and were brought to the notice of the Commission before the party left New York; and, as indicated above, further warnings were given before the party finally left London. I feel sure that the Government of Palestine will do everything possible to remedy the existing deficiencies, but conditions in Jerusalem are such that this is not altogether easy.

(Yours sincerely),

(J. Fletcher-Cooke).

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SECRET.

NOTE.

(Communicated to Representatives of Permanent Members of Security Council)

A. INCURSIONS OF ARMED ARAB BANDS INTO PALESTINE.

In addition to reports already supplied to the United Nations Palestine Commission, the following information is now available:

(1) No large incursions of foreign guerrillas took place during the week ending the 21st February, 1948.

(2) There was evidence to suggest that in order to avoid friction with His Majesty's Government, it had been decided that further reinforcements should cross the frontier in small groups and with greater secrecy.

(3) A report that a motorised detachment of armed Egyptian volunteers had entered the Gaza District was dismissed as probably incorrect and it was suggested that the report might have arisen from confusion with a Red Crescent Unit whose admission had received the consent of the Government of Palestine.

(4) On the 21st February, the number and disposition of foreign guerrilla forces was believed to be somewhat as follows:-

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| (a) <u>Galilee</u> | 1,000 in groups of 50 to 100 under a central command. |
| (b) <u>Haifa</u> | About 200 - 300 |
| (c) <u>Samaria</u> | 3,000 to 4,000 |
| (d) <u>Jerusalem City</u> | Some hundreds |
| (e) <u>Jerusalem District</u> | Possibly 500 |
| (f) <u>Jaffa Town</u> | About 200 |
| (g) <u>Gaza District</u> | About 100 believed to be Egyptians. |

As regards the week ending 28th February, 1948, there were no further reports of large-scale Arab infiltrations and it is believed that the present policy is for volunteers to be sent into the country in small parties. It was reported that there had been no major clashes between

/these

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these Arab bands and the Security Forces during the week under review.

In the Daily Incident Report for the 28th February (sent to the Commission) there was a reference to the fact that during an attack by some 1,500 Arabs on the Jewish colony of Maanit which was repulsed by British Security Forces using artillery, four Arabs believed to be Iraqis were wounded.

B. DISPOSITION OF THE ARAB LEGION.

1. Arab Legion Units in Palestine are employed on static guard and escort duties and not in dealing with communal disorders.
2. The plan for withdrawal to Trans-Jordan by stages of the Arab Legion has been worked out by the military authorities. Of the twenty-one Units in Palestine, four were scheduled to leave by the end of February, a further four by the end of March and the remainder by the 15th April.
3. Incidents have occurred in which personnel of the Arab Legion are alleged to have fired unprovoked on Jewish convoys passing their camps. These allegations have all been investigated and in no instance has it been established that the Arab Legion fired first.

11th March, 1948.

United Kingdom Delegation.

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[Yours sincerely]

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine
United Nations
Lake Success.

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NOTE

EXPLOSION AT JEWISH AGENCY BUILDING IN JERUSALEM ON
11th MARCH, 1948.

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1. At approximately 0943 hours on the morning of 11th March, an explosion followed by a conflagration occurred in that part of the Jewish Agency Building in Jerusalem which is occupied by KEREN HAYESOD.
2. Reports of the Jewish press suggested at first that explosives were introduced into the building through or over the wire of the Security Zone B which lies immediately South of the Agency Building and which at that point is occupied by Royal Air Force and Army details.
3. It now appears, however, that the explosives were introduced into the courtyard of the building in a saloon car flying a United States flag. It is reported that the car, after being checked into the courtyard, disembarked two men who carried parcels into the buildings.
4. It has been established that a Consular station wagon was stolen from the United States Consulate last Saturday and that another United States Consular car on which there was a United States flag failed to return from an errand on the morning of the 11th March.
5. Investigation and collection of information by the authorities have been much hampered and even Jewish members of the Police have been denied facilities for investigation.
6. The first tentative figure of casualties reported here was eight dead and thirty to forty injured.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

P.(N.Y.) 44
Palestine Distribution

URGENT
CONFIDENTIAL

12th March, 1948.

(My dear President,)

As I promised in my letter of March 10th, I have now obtained from London and Jerusalem answers to the questions in the list furnished to me by Senator Austin on behalf of the Four Permanent Members of the Security Council at our meeting on March 9th.

The memorandum which I transmit to you herewith contains answers to all these questions with the exception of No. 8, on which I made my position clear at the meeting on March 9th.

In addition to answering the specific questions listed by Senator Austin, I have included such information as is available to me on supplementary points which arose during our discussion of the questions. A further such point which was put to me was whether His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have entered into any conversations with the Governments of Arab States bordering on Palestine in regard to incursions of Arab irregulars. In this connection I am authorised to inform you that His Majesty's Government have protested to the Governments of Syria and Transjordan against the incursions of Arab irregular forces into Palestine from the Territory of those States, and have asked them to use their best endeavours to prevent similar incursions in future.

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to my United States, French and Soviet colleagues, to the Chairman of the Palestine Commission and to the Secretary-General for his personal information.

(Yours sincerely)

Sgd. V.G. Lawford

for Sir Alexander Cadogan

Dr. Ting-Fu Tsiang,
President,
Security Council,
United Nations.

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CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

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QUESTION 1: Have any incursions by armed elements from outside Palestine occurred in addition to those already reported to the Palestine Commission by the Mandatory Power?

ANSWER 1: The following information is now available in addition to that already supplied:

- (a) On or about the 24th February, between 500 and 1,000 Iraqis, Lebanese, Syrians, Egyptians and Transjordanians entered Samaria and Galilee across the Jordan and the Palestine-Lebanon frontier.
- (b) A band of up to 500 Yugoslavs presumed to be Bosnian Moslems were reported en route to the Lydda District during the first week of March.
- (c) On the 5th/6th March, a small party under Fawzi Bey Kawukji entered Palestine. Kawukji's present whereabouts and intentions are unknown, and no report of his having established a permanent headquarters has been received by the British authorities.
- (d) Numbers of Egyptians have entered Gaza District in parties of up to 100 at a time. It is possible that other small contingents have entered unreported.

QUESTION 2: Has the Mandatory Power been able to identify personnel involved in such incursions?

ANSWER 2: The information of the Palestine authorities regarding the origin of personnel involved in these incursions is derived from common knowledge available locally and from intelligence reports. As regards the character of these forces, they consist of irregular formations and not organised units of any national armed force.

QUESTION 3: Are these incursions privately organised by individuals or unofficial groups, or are they supported or encouraged by Governments outside Palestine?

ANSWER 3: H.M.G. have no special information on this point other than that given in answer to question 2.

/Question 4.....

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QUESTION 4: Are arms now flowing into Palestine from outside sources to individuals or groups unauthorised by the Mandatory Power to possess arms? 55

ANSWER 4: Both Arabs and Jews in Palestine are now receiving illicit consignments of arms from outside sources. While the Palestine Government have no exact knowledge of the quantity and description of arms possessed by either side, it is their opinion that the Jews are better armed than the Arabs. In this connexion it will be recalled that there have recently been instances of the seizure in the United States by United States authorities of large consignments of high explosives destined for Jewish organisations in Palestine.

As regards the possibility which has been suggested of illicit importation of arms by aircraft landing in the desert, the Palestine Government consider this unlikely. Such clandestine importation by air would, however, be easier for the Jews than for the Arabs, in view of the better facilities possessed by the former for wireless communication and for distribution of arms after receipt.

QUESTION 5: What measures, military and civil, by the Mandatory Power are being taken to prevent the movement of hostile elements into Palestine from outside Palestine?

ANSWER 5: The principal points of entry by land are guarded by troops or police, but owing to the length of the frontier and the difficult nature of the terrain, it is impossible for frontier control to be one hundred percent effective. As regards the sea frontier, the measures taken by the Mandatory authorities to prevent the entry of Jewish illegal immigrants are well known.

QUESTION 6: To what extent are disorders inside Palestine due to participation by armed elements from outside Palestine?

ANSWER 6: The present series of disturbances began in December last against a background of Jewish inspired disorder which had /been going....

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been going on for 2½ years. The Arabs implicated in this series of disturbances were originally all Palestinians. Since then both Palestinian and non-Palestinian Arabs have been engaged.

QUESTION 7: To what extent are disorders inside Palestine attributable to incitement to violence from outside Palestine?

ANSWER 7: As far as the Palestine Arabs are concerned, their opposition to partition is spontaneous and universal.

Inflammatory material has appeared in the press of the neighbouring Arab countries, although the situation in this respect has recently improved. On the Jewish side, widespread propaganda has of course been conducted for some time in the press of the United States and other countries by persons and organisations inciting the Jewish community to violence and terrorism principally against the Mandatory Power.

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE

UNITED NATIONS

12th March, 1948.

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20 MAR 1948

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL.

15th March, 1948.

/My dear Bunche_/

I enclose a copy of a note which has been prepared relating to the decision to establish a Clearing Office in Cyprus to ensure the orderly completion of Accounts and Records of the Government of Palestine on the termination of the Mandate. As this task is a residual obligation of the Government of Palestine, the cost is regarded as a proper charge on Palestine funds.

It is presumed that the Commission will readily agree to this proposal since it appears to be the only practicable method of having the Accounts up to the 15th May completed, balanced and audited. It is doubtful whether this task could be undertaken as part of the normal continuing administrative structure in Palestine after the 15th May since no Arab or British expatriate staff would be available to the Commission for this purpose and without such senior staff possessing the necessary knowledge and experience, there could be no certainty that the work would be accurately carried out. The Commission would then have to accept balances (and assets and liabilities) without any reconciliation and audit of accounts by those who are alone in a position to carry out these functions.

I am to assure the Commission that as regards any Palestinian staff employed in the Cyprus Clearing Office, on completion of their work, such staff would be free to accept service under successor authorities.

/Yours sincerely/

(Signed) J. Fletcher-Cooke.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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NOTE

ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEARING OFFICE IN CYPRUS.

It has been decided to set up a Clearing Office of the Government of Palestine in Cyprus. The main purposes of this Office will be as follows:-

(a) The closing and reconciling of the Accounts of the Government of Palestine up to the date of the termination of the Mandate.

(b) The computation of Pensions and Gratuities insofar as this work has not been completed by the withdrawal date.

(c) The verification and certification of any claims for or against the retiring Administration. It is presumed that such claims would be passed on together with such certification for the attention of the Successor Administration, though a few minor matters might be settled one way or the other without upsetting the principle of the complete cessation of the present Administration and the inheritance of Assets and Liabilities by the Successor.

(d) Subsidiary problems which cannot be foreseen.

2. The main work will be concerned with (a) above and for this purpose representatives of certain Departments other than the Accountant-General's Office will be required, i.e. Police, Public Works Department, Posts and Telegraphs and probably Customs and Excise (in connection with Deposit Accounts in respect of Customs drawbacks, refunds, etc.).

3. As regards the Railway Accounts, these will presumably be posted and reconciled concurrently with operations in connection with the period of military evacuation immediately after the termination of the Mandate. The minimum of contact with the Cyprus Clearing Office should suffice as regards these Accounts.

4. Regarding (b) of paragraph 1, unless unforeseen circumstances arise, it is expected that all Pensions and Gratuities in respect of Palestinians will have been completed before the 15th May. Any that have not been dealt with, together with any appeals or correspondence in connection

/therewith

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ESTIMATE OF STAFF REQUIRED FOR CLEARING OFFICE
IN CYPRUS.

DEPARTMENT	EXPATRIATE OFFICERS	SENIOR PALESTINIAN OFFICERS	CLERICAL OFFICERS (PALESTINIAN)
Secretariat	1	-	-
Audit	2	2	10
Accountant- General	1	5	17
Police	-	1	13
P.W.D.	-	1	6
Posts & Telegraphs	-	1	4
Customs	-	1	2
TOTALS	4	11	52

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PRELIMINARY ROUGH ESTIMATES OF COST OF
CYPRUS CLEARING OFFICE.

A. PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

	<u>£</u>	<u>l</u>
(i) 4 expatriate officers for periods varying from 1-3 months	1,300	
(ii) 11 senior Palestinian officers for periods varying from 1-3 months	1,650	
(iii) 52 clerical officers (Palestinian) for periods varying from 1-3 months	3,120	
(iv) 1 driver-mechanic	100	
(v) 2 messengers (recruited locally)	100	
(vi) 1 caretaker (recruited locally)	<u>100</u>	6,370

B. OTHER CHARGES.

(i) Hire of Offices	300	
(ii) Passages to and from Cyprus	1,260	
(iii) Lodging costs	2,000	
(iv) Maintenance of motor vehicles	100	
(iv) (a) Cost of transport of motor vehicles to Cyprus	50	
(v) Stationery	50	
(vi) Water and Electricity	50	
(vii) Telephone, telegrams and postage	250	
(viii) Extra Clerical Assistance (local)	200	
(ix) Contingencies and incidental expenses	<u>100</u>	4,360
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,730

C. REVENUE.

(i) From Income Tax deductions, say	1,500	
(ii) From sale of motor vehicles	<u>1,500</u>	3,000
NETT COST	<u>7,730</u>

Footnote:-

Attached are notes regarding above computations.

/4. (i)

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- A (i) Based on existing salaries plus expatriation allowance.
- A (ii) Based on an average monthly salary of £60.
- A (iii) Based on an average monthly salary of £30.
- B (ii) Based on 63 x £20.
- B (iii) Based on 67 x approximately 10/- a day.
- B (iv) Based on maintenance of 3 vehicles taken from Palestine,
1 for 1 month, and 2 for 3 months, which would probably
be cheaper than hiring local transport.

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Palestine Distribution

15th March, 1948

/Dear Bunche/

INDEXED

May I refer you to paragraph 4 of my letter of 12th March, regarding the texts of announcements made by the Government of Palestine on behalf of the Commission in respect of the continued employment of Palestinian personnel under the Commission.

I have now received from Jerusalem a copy (enclosed) of General Circular No. 7 which as you will see was issued on 18th February.

I have also received a draft of a further General Circular (enclosed) under cover of a communication dated 2nd March, in which I was informed that the second circular was due to be issued shortly.

You will no doubt bring this information to the notice of the Commission.

(Yours sincerely,)

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success

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CSU/18/48.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM.

GENERAL CIRCULAR No. 7.

I am directed to inform you that the United Nations' Palestine Commission have requested that the following statement of their policy regarding the continuance in service of Palestinian officials of this Administration should be brought to the notice of all officers concerned. They have also asked that an indication should be obtained from such employees of their intention with respect to continuing employment after the British withdrawal. The statement reads:-

"In view of changes in the Palestine Administration consequent upon the termination of the Mandate and implementation of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the United Nations Palestine Commission states for information of all interested parties that it will be its policy to ensure the maintenance of existing conditions of employment for all employees of Palestine Administration who continue in the service after the termination of the Mandate."

2. Declarations of officers' wishes regarding continuing employment with the Successor States, the City of Jerusalem of the Joint Economic Board should in due course be notified to the United Nations' Palestine Commission through Heads of Departments. The address of the Commission will be notified later.

3. It is to be clearly understood that the contents of this circular are communicated to you at the express desire of the United Nations' Palestine Commission, and you are requested to bring it to the notice of all members of your department.

4. An announcement regarding benefits payable to officers on the termination of employment will be issued very shortly.

H.L.G. GURNEY
Chief Secretary.

18th February, 1948.

Distribution: HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS.

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DRAFT GENERAL CIRCULAR

"The United Nations Palestine Commission being under the terms of the resolution of the General Assembly responsible for the administration of Palestine immediately following the termination of the Mandate, hereby calls upon all present employees of the Palestine Administration to continue in their service with the successor authority in Palestine, when the British withdrawal is terminated. It is the policy of the United Nations Palestine Commission, as successor authority, to maintain services on the same terms and with the same rights for employees as those employed under the Mandatory Government. The Commission requests all present officers of the Palestine Government to state at the earliest possible date whether they will be willing to remain in the service of the successor administration of Palestine on such terms."

I am to request you to bring this Circular to the notice of all officers and employees of your Department as soon as possible, and to secure their replies to the Commission's request at the earliest possible moment. I will inform you shortly of the address to which these replies should be forwarded.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

13th March, 1948.

/My dear Bunche_/

May I refer you to my letter of 12th March with which I enclosed a brief note about the recent explosion at the Jewish Agency Building in Jerusalem. We have now received further information about this incident which will be found in the enclosed note.

/Yours sincerely, /

(Signed) J. Fletcher-Cooke

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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(EXPLOSION AT JEWISH AGENCY BUILDING ON THE 11th MARCH, 1948).

The following account of the explosion at the Jewish Agency Building in Jerusalem on the 11th March, 1948, is based on information obtained as a result of police investigations carried out on the 11th/12th March.

(a) At 9.46 a.m. on the 11th March, a heavy explosion occurred at the Jewish Agency Headquarters Office in King George V Avenue, Jerusalem. Fire broke out immediately afterwards and the casualty figures reported by 8.0 p.m. on the 12th March are as follows:-

13 Jones killed

33 Jews seriously injured

51 Jews slightly injured.

(b) Due to the refusal of Jews at the scene of the incident to allow British or Jewish Police Officers access to the Buildings or facilities to make a proper examination of the remains of the vehicle understood to have carried the explosive charges or to interrogate witnesses, it has been difficult to obtain an authoritative version of what took place.

(Some of the difficulties with which the authorities have been faced in conducting this investigation are set out later in this Report.)

(3) It appears that a saloon car bearing United States Consular registration plates and possibly flying a United States flag, drove up to the Jewish Agency Building.

(d) According to those witnesses (not yet interrogated by the Police), the car was driven by the usual chauffeur, a Christian Arab, who was in blue Consular uniform and who was known to the Jewish guards at the entrance.

(e) The Jewish guards, therefore, allowed the vehicle to enter the courtyard where it seems to have been parked close to the Keren Hayesod wing of the building.

(f) The explosion occurred a few moments later.

(g) What happened to the driver is not yet known.

(h) It has been established that a car, the description of which corresponds to that of the vehicle used in this attack, is missing from the United States Consulate General. The chauffeur left the Consulate General at 9.0 a.m. to collect newspapers from a shop in Mamillah Road /but according

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but according to employees at the shop, neither he nor any other person collected newspapers for the Consulate General.

(i) Neither the vehicle nor the driver have yet been accounted for.

(j) Owing to the difficulties placed in the way of the authorities investigating this incident, details of damage to the Building have not yet been obtained but a British Broadcasting Corporation correspondent, who was held under arrest in the Building by Jews shortly after the explosion, was later released and allowed to inspect the damage.

(k) This correspondent is understood to have said that the top floor of the Keren Hayesod wing had been sliced off and that the walls facing the courtyard were tottering and charred by fire. He further stated that every office in the Building had suffered blast damage and that eight or ten Jewish Agency trucks and other vehicles standing in the yard at the time of the explosion had been extensively damaged.

2. The following facts have been reported from Jerusalem relating to the manner in which Police investigations into this outrage have been obstructed:-

(a) Immediately following the explosion the British Deputy Superintendent of Police, Jerusalem, issued orders for all British personnel to keep out of the area until he had visited the scene. At the same time, he ordered an investigating party consisting of Jewish Police to proceed immediately to the Jewish Agency.

(b) The Deputy Superintendent of Police then went to the area accompanied by a Jewish Assistant Superintendent of Police.

(c) At Zone B Gate, he met a British Army Officer who stated that immediately after the explosion he had entered the area with a party of soldiers, stretchers and an ambulance. After removing five injured Jews, the soldiers were roughly handled, cursed at and spat upon by Jews who were in a hostile mood, blaming the British and the Arabs for the outrage. The British Army Officer immediately withdrew his party.

(d) The Deputy Superintendent of Police then sent the Jewish Assistant Superintendent of Police to the Jewish Agency to make contact with the investigating party and to commence investigations. The Jewish Assistant Superintendent

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Superintendent of Police was twice refused admission to the Building and was eventually sent to a Jewish Agency official with a message asking for assistance in making contact with witnesses of the incident.

(e) The Deputy Superintendent of Police himself endeavoured to enter the Jewish Agency Building but was stopped by four members of the Haganah, one of whom said "Get back, you British pig".

(f) Shortly afterwards, two members of the Jewish police investigating party came to speak to the Deputy Superintendent of Police but were obstructed by four Haganah men.

(g) After a delay of ten minutes, one of the Jewish policemen was allowed to pass. He stated that the United States Consulate driver was suspected of having deposited the explosive and added that the Police were not being allowed to record statements of witnesses.

(h) Three-quarters of an hour later, at 12.15 p.m., the Jewish Assistant Superintendent of Police returned and reported that no progress was being made in the police investigations and that he had not been permitted to examine what was believed to be the United States Consulate vehicle.

(i) The Jewish District Officer, Jerusalem, who was also present, was asked to assist and he said that he would see what he could do but that the situation was extraordinary.

(j) At 1.0 p.m. the Deputy Superintendent of Police left the scene as there was no change in the Jewish attitude towards the Police.

(k) At 1.30 p.m. the Jewish Assistant Superintendent of Police was given a list of supposed witnesses by the Jewish Agency official.

(l) It was not until 3.30 p.m. that Jewish Police personnel were permitted to enter the Agency and examined the vehicle believed to have been used in the incident.

(m) While one Jewish Police Corporal was taking a statement from a witness, members of the Haganah intervened, seized the statement and removed the witness.

13th March, 1948.

United Kingdom Delegation.

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Palestine.

Termination of the Mandate.

The attached paper has been approved by Sir Alexander Cadogan as a statement for background purposes of the grounds upon which His Majesty's Government maintain their right to relinquish responsibility for the government of Palestine when the Mandate is terminated on May 15th.

2. Attention is drawn to the fact that the statement has not been communicated to the United States Delegation.

(P.S. Falla)

15th March, 1948.

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- "1. The Mandate for Palestine shall terminate as soon as possible but in any case not later than 1 August, 1948.
2. The armed forces of the Mandatory Power shall^{be}/progressively withdrawn from Palestine, the withdrawal to be completed as soon as possible but in any case not later than 1 August, 1948."

2. In accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations under which the Mandate was conferred, the policy of His Majesty's Government during their tenure of the Mandate has been directed towards enabling the population of Palestine to choose representatives to whom responsibility for the government of Palestine could be transferred on the termination of the Mandate. Much to the regret of His Majesty's Government, all endeavours in this direction have proved fruitless. Accordingly, His Majesty's Government have accepted the arrangement in the Assembly resolution whereby the United Nations Commission is to serve as an interim governing authority pending the achievement of independence by the people of Palestine. In default of any other authority which could be regarded as having established a claim to represent the people of Palestine, the Commission is regarded by His Majesty's Government as a trustee for the interests of the population and as the proper authority with which to negotiate for the purpose of handing over the assets of the present Government of Palestine and providing for the meeting of that Government's obligations.

4. To sum up, the view of His Majesty's Government is that

- (i) The Mandate is unworkable and must be terminated.
- (ii) On the termination of the Mandate, the functions of government in Palestine should in theory be handed over either to representatives of the people of Palestine or possibly to the Principal Allied and Associated Powers of World War I, by whom the Mandate was conferred under Article 22 of the Covenant. But
 - (a) There is no-one with an established claim to represent the people of Palestine (whatever may be the rights of the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee to represent the Jewish and Arab communities respectively), and

/(b)

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- (b) Whatever may be the surviving rights of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers (and His Majesty's Government are doubtful whether any such rights now exist), it is by no means clear that they would justify an assumption by those Powers of direct responsibility for the administration of Palestine.
- (iii) In these circumstances there is no authority except the United Nations which can provide for the administration of Palestine during the period following the termination of the Mandate.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

18th March 1948

(My dear Bunche),

May I refer you to paragraph 1 of your letter of the 3rd March and previous correspondence relating to the proposed activities of the International Red Cross Committee in Palestine after the 15th May.

I have now received further information from Jerusalem on the subject of the maintenance of health services in Palestine after the 15th May, which is as follows:-

- (1) The problem of maintaining existing hospitals in certain localities has been causing some anxiety to the Government of Palestine.
- (2) At the present time, the Department of Health maintains the following hospitals:-
 - (a) Hospitals for general cases (including infectious diseases) - Jerusalem, Haifa, Assuan, Jaffa, Beersheba, Gaza, Tel Aviv and Safad.
 - (b) Hospitals for infectious diseases - Jerusalem, (Beit Safafa), Enei Braq and Safad.
 - (c) Hospitals for mental diseases - Bethlehem Nos. 1 and 2, and Bat Yam, near Jaffa.
- (3) Laboratories are attached to many of these hospitals.
- (4) It is anticipated that the Commission will find a difficulty in operating some of the hospitals which primarily serve the Arabs.
- (5) The following hospitals are gradually being transferred as it were in trust to the respective local authorities until the new central authority makes other arrangements:- Assuan, Jaffa, Beersheba and Gaza.
- (6) The question of Haifa and Safad hospitals is under discussion.
- (7) It has not been found possible by the Government of Palestine to maintain a hospital for infectious diseases at Jerusalem (Beit Safafa) owing to security reasons and its administration has, therefore, been placed in the hands of the Arab Medical Association, who were at the time the only organisation capable of exercising the necessary authority.
- (8) There will probably be no difficulty in turning over the Tel Aviv (Enei Braq) hospital to the Vaad Leumi in due course but the necessity for this does not arise at present.
- (9) The hospital at Bat Yam near Jaffa presents certain special features but it is at present commissioned by the Jews, some of whom have been recruited by the Vaad Leumi.

/Arrangements

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

18th March, 1948

(My dear Bunche)

You will remember that on the 30th January Sir Alexander Cadogan wrote to Monsieur Lisicky and informed him, inter alia, that on the termination of the Mandate there would be established in Jerusalem a Municipal Police Force of 300 Arabs and 300 Jews. It was also stated that in addition to this Arab-Jewish Municipal Police Force, the Government of Palestine considered that a force of one thousand non-Palestinian personnel would be the minimum required for the preservation of law and order in Jerusalem.

On the 11th February, you wrote an official letter on behalf of the Commission to Sir Alexander Cadogan stating that as regards volunteers from the British section of the Palestine Police Force, the Commission was prepared to offer employment to any such volunteers on the present terms and conditions.

The Commission also enquired whether His Majesty's Government were prepared to make any suggestions as regards suitable persons to be considered for the command of the Jerusalem Police Force. This matter was reported to His Majesty's Government but I am not yet in a position to inform you whether they are prepared to make any such suggestions.

In conveying this point to His Majesty's Government, it was suggested that whether or not they were prepared to put forward the names of individuals for the command of this Force, it might be helpful to the Commission if suitable terms for this post could be indicated. As you will appreciate, the Commission's statement of policy to continue employment on the same terms as exist at present would hardly serve as a basis for the terms to be offered to the new Chief of the Jerusalem Police, in as much as this will mean the creation of a new post.

In considering whether they could make any useful suggestions as to the terms of service and status of the Chief of the Jerusalem Police, His Majesty's Government have enquired as to the size of the Force that is contemplated by the Commission for the maintenance of security in Jerusalem.

As stated in paragraph 1 of this letter, it is the Government of Palestine's intention to leave behind on the termination of the Mandate 300 Arab and 300 Jewish Municipal Police and in their view a further 1,000 non-Palestinian personnel is the minimum necessary for the maintenance of security in Jerusalem.

I observe from the Trusteeship Council document No. T/142 of the 5th March, 1948 that there is a reference in paragraph 3 to a Police Force with a strength of 500 to be established as of the 1st July, 1948. It is presumed that this proposed Force of 500 is in addition to the 300 Arab and 300 Jewish Municipal Police who will be left in Jerusalem on 15th May, but it is, of course, only one half of the minimum figure suggested by the Government of Palestine.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
United Nations Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

/ In order ...

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In order to enable me to answer the enquiry as to the total strength of the Police Force which the Commission contemplates it will be necessary to have in Jerusalem after 15th May, I should be grateful for an early expression of the Commission's views in this matter.

(Yours sincerely,)

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

3519 4 18th March, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

(My dear Bunche)

May I refer to your letter of 5th March with which was enclosed a memorandum from the Commission relating to the food supply position in Palestine.

As stated in paragraph 2 of my letter of the 15th March, the proposals made by the Commission have been conveyed to His Majesty's Government and the views of His Majesty's Government are as follows:-

(1) Up to the 15th May next, His Majesty's Government will continue the present procurement of food supplies.

(2) For the period 15th May to 30th June next (the end of the current International Emergency Food Council allocation period for cereals), His Majesty's Government are prepared to arrange for the procurement on an agency basis of those supplies which they at present undertake, i.e. cereals, sugar and some oils and fats, subject to the following financial considerations:-

(a) That the Government of Palestine is unable to advance money to finance these operations.

(b) That the financial obligations undertaken during the period 15th May to 30th June next will be accepted by the Commission possibly through the Export Import Bank, commercial loans or such other similar arrangements as may be found suitable by the Commission.

(3) His Majesty's Government consider that in any event the situation in Palestine demands that immediate steps should be taken to supplement the procurement referred to in paragraph 2 above by the issue of import licences to private traders in Palestine, the overall supplies procured by these means being set off against the programme of the supplies in question.

(4) Whilst noting the Commission's objections to private importation as likely to weaken central control of supplies and distribution, His Majesty's Government have in the urgent circumstances now existing authorised the High Commissioner for Palestine to allow private importation at his discretion forthwith.

(Yours sincerely)

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
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20th March, 1948.

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in the neighbourhood of Tel Aviv, known as the "Sarona Lands". The Municipality were informed that if, prior to the termination of the Mandate, they could make arrangements to raise the balance of funds necessary, the amount already approved to them in principle by way of loan from these Bearer Bond balances would be forthcoming.

The Tel Aviv Municipality have now applied to the Government of Palestine for the release of LP353,387 as a loan from these Bearer Bond balances which, together with LP729,000 which will be found by the Jewish National Fund and private contributions, will enable them to acquire the Sarona Lands, and His Majesty's Government have approved this release.

The Commission may also be aware that towards the end of 1947, the Government of Palestine decided to dispose of the Haifa Harbour Estate (which is Government domain) in order to realise some liquid funds. It was originally intended that the plots making up the Haifa Harbour Estates should be offered to the public by way of open tender and in fact a certain number of these plots have actually been sold. During the past few months, however, negotiations have been in progress between the Haifa Municipality and the Government of Palestine with a view to the Municipality taking over the whole of this area. In order to bring these negotiations to completion, the Government of Palestine, with the approval of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, has decided to authorise a loan to the Haifa Municipality of LP750,000 from the invested balance of Bearer Bonds to which reference is made above. The loan to the Haifa Municipality will be for thirty years at the usual rate of interest of three-and-one-eighth percent and will be secured on the revenues of the Municipality and upon the property to be purchased with the proceeds of the loan.

Although the effects of these two proposals (i.e. to make loans from Bearer Bond balances to the Tel Aviv Municipality and to the Haifa Municipality) will be to reduce the invested balance of the Bearer Bonds by about LP1,100,000, His Majesty's Government consider that this investment in real estate is a sound proposition in the interests of the country as a whole and also of the Bond holders.

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I have, therefore, been asked to bring these decisions to the
notice of the Commission and as you will recall I mentioned this matter
over the telephine this morning.

(J, Fletcher-Cooke)

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

22nd March, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

(Dear Bunche),

May I refer you to sub-paragraph (a) - Proposed Amendment to Iraq Petroleum Company's Pipeline Concession, of Section 6 - Concessions, of paragraph 2 of the note submitted to the Commission on the 21st January relating to certain matters to be discussed with the Commission at some stage.

2. In that note the Commission were informed that negotiations with the Company had been suspended owing to the fact that constitutional changes were pending. This matter has, however, been under constant consideration by His Majesty's Government and they have now decided that it is in the interests of the economic development of this area that the negotiations should be brought to a conclusion without further delay. Accordingly His Majesty's Government have authorised the High Commissioner to grant the Company pipeline facilities as requested (i.e. for oil from Transjordan and also from two areas in Iraq not covered by their existing pipeline convention with the Government of Palestine) in return for an annual payment of £P45,000. This sum will, therefore, represent an immediate addition to the assets of the Government of Palestine.

3. It may be convenient if I recapitulate the past history of this matter.

(a) On the 10th May 1947, the Iraq Petroleum Company entered into an agreement with the Government of Transjordan whereby the Company were authorised to undertake drilling operations in that country.

(b) The agreement provided that the Company's drilling obligations should run from a date on which arrangements satisfactory to the Company had been concluded between them and the Government of Palestine covering the transit of any oil found in Transjordan through Palestine.

(c) As early as the 17th March, 1947, the Company raised with His Majesty's Government the question of the free transit through Palestine of any oil found in Transjordan as a result of their operations under the concession then under negotiation with the Government of Transjordan.

(d) It was decided in principle that the Government of Palestine had the right to make charges for pipeline facilities and that the actual amount to be paid by the Company should be negotiated between the Government of Palestine and the Company.

(e) The Iraq Petroleum Company were so informed and entered into negotiations with the Government of Palestine accordingly.

(f) As a result of these negotiations, the Company offered to pay £P45,000 per annum.

(g) But for the delay in deciding the question of principle referred to above, negotiations would probably have been completed before the Partition Plan was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations, in which case the continued validity of any arrangement so made would have been assured under paragraph 3(d) of Chapter 3 of the Plan.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

/(h) The

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(h) The position under that paragraph has been explained to the Company who appreciate that the Plan does not guarantee the continued validity of any agreement which may now be made.

4. The Commission may be interested to know that although the Iraq Petroleum Company is registered in the United Kingdom, twenty-three and three-quarters per cent of the capital is held by American interests (Near East Development Corporation), twenty-three and three-quarters per cent by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, twenty-three and three-quarters per cent by Royal Dutch Shell, twenty-three and three-quarters per cent by Compagnie Française des Pétroles and five per cent by Participations and Investments Limited.

(Yours sincerely)

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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CONFIDENTIAL

22nd March, 1948

(Dear Bunche,)

I have been asked to bring to the notice of the Commission the following facts regarding Lydda Airport:-

(a) The Government of Palestine is advised that signals equipment and radio aids to navigation at Lydda require replacement at an estimated cost of £20,000.

(b) The equipment at present in use at Lydda was taken over from the Royal Air Force when they relinquished control of the aerodrome in June, 1947, and is not only obsolete but at the end of its life.

(c) It is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty about continuing to use this equipment for another few months without any major calamity but a serious breakdown must be envisaged before the end of this year.

(d) In order to secure delivery in time, it is necessary to place early orders for the new equipment required.

(e) This question has arisen in part from the anxiety of those Air Transport Companies which operate at Lydda over future provisions when the Mandate is terminated.

It would not be proper for the Government of Palestine to enter into long-term commitments of this kind at this stage.

I have, therefore, been asked to approach the Commission in this matter and invite their attention to the conditions which are likely to arise at Lydda unless they can arrange for re-equipment before the end of this year. The Government of Palestine would be prepared to offer technical assistance in determining what equipment is required.

(Yours sincerely)

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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You may have seen reports in the New York press to the effect that several units of the Arab Legion have recently moved into the Hebron area from Transjordan as a result of orders received from the Arab League.

(i) Elements of the Arab Legion serving in Palestine under British command have recently been posted to the Hebron area.

(iii) It is thus not correct that units of the Arab Legion now in the Hebron area moved in from Transjordan as a result of orders from the Arab League.

[Yours sincerely]

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations.
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success,

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

24th March, 1948.

(Dear Bunche),

May I refer to the letter of the 19th March addressed to the Chairman of the Palestine Commission by the Director of the New York Office of the Jewish Agency for Palestine regarding the position of the Arab Legion in Palestine.

2. As the Commission will appreciate, the Arab Legion is being employed in Palestine as part of the Security Forces under the command of the General Officer Commanding. In order that the Arab Legion may be in a position effectively to carry out its task of assisting in the maintenance of security, it has, of course, to be supplied with arms and equipment as required. I am, therefore, to confirm the statement made in paragraph 2 of the letter referred to above, namely, that on or about the 9th March certain items of equipment to meet Arab Legion requirements were moved from Tel el Kebir in Egypt to Raffah in Palestine.

3. As regards the suggestion in paragraph 4 of the letter referred to above that units of the Arab Legion had entered the Hebron District in Palestine "under the authority of the Arab League", I would invite attention to my letter of the 23rd March, from which you will observe that this is incorrect and that those elements of the Arab Legion serving in Palestine under British command who have recently been posted to the Hebron area have moved there under the orders of the General Officer Commanding.

4. As regards the last paragraph of the letter referred to above, I would invite your attention to paragraph 3 of Section B - Disposition of the Arab Legion, of the note furnished to the President and other Permanent Members of the Security Council, a copy of which was sent to you under cover of my letter of the 11th March. From this paragraph, it will be observed that all allegations that personnel of the Arab Legion have fired unprovoked on Jewish convoys passing their camps have been investigated and in no instance has it been established that the Arab Legion fired first.

(Yours sincerely),

Sgd. J. Fletcher-Cooke

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success, L.I.

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Sgd. J. Fletcher-Cooke

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Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success, L.I.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

25th March, 1948.

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2. I have been asked to bring to the notice of the Commission certain representations which the Jewish Agency have made to the Government of Palestine and which are as follows:-

(b) The Jewish Agency could not at present finance the initial purchasing but would, if necessary, enter into a bond through the Banks to meet all the costs involved after they had had an opportunity to distribute the food stuffs and collect payment in Palestine.

3. It is felt that this information should be conveyed to the Commission since, if they were desirous of making use of this offer and could arrange for the initial financing of purchases, they might wish to suggest a reduction in the quantities of food stuffs (at least for Jewish areas) in respect of which it is proposed to grant import licences.

Sgd. J. Fletcher-Cooke

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
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Palestine Distribution.

1st April, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

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[Dear Bunche]

May I refer you to your letter of the 25th March in which you acknowledged receipt of my confidential letter of the 13th March on the subject of a Police Force for Jerusalem.

2. You will remember that in paragraph 4 of your official letter of the 11th February to Sir Alexander Cadogan, you stated that the Commission would welcome any suggestions from His Majesty's Government as to suitable persons who might be considered for the command of the proposed Jerusalem Police Force. His Majesty's Government have given this request very careful consideration but regret that they cannot see their way to suggesting a British candidate for the post of Chief of the Jerusalem City Police.

3. If, however, the Commission proceed with their efforts to recruit a special Police Force for Jerusalem and advertise this appointment on the terms indicated in Part II of the "Report to the Trusteeship Council by the Committee on the Budgetary Implications of the Draft Statute" (Trusteeship Council document T/141 of the 5th March), His Majesty's Government would be prepared to advise the Commission as to the record of any volunteers forthcoming from the Palestine Police Force. His Majesty's Government are not, however, prepared to put forward any names themselves nor to recommend any officer for the appointment.

[Yours sincerely]

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations, Lake Success.

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1st April, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

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May I refer you to your letter of the 25th March in which you acknowledged receipt of my confidential letter of the 18th March on the subject of a Police Force for Jerusalem.

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[Yours sincerely]

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations, Lake Success.

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Despatch

April 1964

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Addressed to Cairo No. 457 Bagdad

~~N.~~ , Jedda ~~N.~~ , Beirut ~~N.~~ ,

for information to U.K. Delegation New
York, Washington, B.M.E.O., ^{and} Jerusalem.

My telegram No. 374 to Cairo [of 13th
March 7.

Sir A. Cadogan will now have sent
you copies of documents Nos. P(NY) 37 to

(You may use the information contained in any of these documents with the exception of Nos. 47 (repeat 47) and 54 (repeat 54).

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FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CAIRO

No. 457

7th April 1948.

D. 10.18 a.m. 8th April 1948.

and to Bagdad No. 316
Jedda No. 173
Beirut No. 237
Damascus No. 162
Amman No. 217

Repeated to: U.K. Delegation New York No. 1434
Washington No. 3849
B.M.E.O. Cairo No. 272
Jerusalem.

IMPORTANT.
SECRET.

Addressed to Cairo telegram No. 457 of 7th April and to Bagdad, Jedda, Beirut, Damascus and Amman repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation New York, Washington, British Middle East Office Cairo and Jerusalem.

My telegram No. 374 to Cairo [of 13th March].

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(A) Security.

(2) The Commission have already been informed that these details will have to be discussed with their representatives in Palestine.

(4) It is felt that the Commission must make their own proposals as to how they shall preserve the physical property and assets of the Government of Palestine.

(B) Administration.

(3) The Commission have already been informed that these questions must be discussed between the Government of Palestine and the Commission's representatives there.

(4) This is a new print and His Majesty's Government's views have been sought.

(C) Economic and Financial.

(1) I am still awaiting the Commission's views on the proposals made in my confidential letter of the 5th April.

(2) This would seem to be a matter for the Commission, in so far as it appears to relate to the period after the 15th May.

(3) His Majesty's Government's views have been sought on this point.

(4) As you will be aware, the Commission have already been invited to nominate an observer to the Palestine Currency Board and I have not yet received a reply to this invitation.

(5) As in the case of other departmental activities, it is felt that the Commission will have to make their own arrangements as regards the maintenance of import and export controls.

(6) The Commission have already been informed of the proposal that a two-months budget will be prepared covering the months of April and May and that it will be for them to take any necessary steps thereafter.

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ANNEX I.

(Letter from Dr. Bunche to Mr. Fletcher-Cooke,
received on the 13th April)

UNITED NATIONS
Palestine Commission

9 April 1948

Dear Fletcher-Cooke:

In view of the short period of time remaining until the Special Session of the General Assembly convenes, and in the light of your telephone conversations with me concerning the views of the Mandatory Power on the subject, the Commission has decided for the time being to defer action on the proposal that it proceed to London for the purpose of carrying on negotiations with His Majesty's Government there.

Irrespective of the ultimate decision of the United Nations on the future government of Palestine, there are a number of matters of considerable urgency which should be disposed of in order to preserve the greatest possible measure of order and the essential services in Palestine. The uncertainty of the situation created by the convocation of the General Assembly at this advanced stage before 15 May increases the urgency of the need for arrangements to be made to prevent a complete breakdown of administration in Palestine.

Among the matters requiring immediate attention are the following:-

A. Security

1. Consultations respecting the terms of the proposed directive to the General Officer Commanding regarding the functions and responsibilities of British troops remaining in Palestine after 15 May.
2. Details of the transfer of the arms, stores, equipment, depots, etc. of the Palestine Police Force.
3. Matters relating to the security of Jerusalem and the Holy Places, and the recruitment of a non-Palestinian police force for Jerusalem.
4. The preservation of the physical property and assets of the Government of Palestine.

B. Administration

1. Arrangements to ensure some measure of continuity in essential transportation and communications services such as airports, railways, posts, telegraph, telephone and radio.
2. Arrangements to ensure some measure of continuity in the health and prison administration, and in the judiciary.

/3. Preservation

Mr. J. Fletcher-Cooke,
Permanent United Kingdom Delegation
to the United Nations,
61st Floor,
350 Fifth Avenue,
New York 1, New York.

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- (3) Preservation and transfer of files of the various departments of Government.
- (4) Access to Haifa after 15 May 1948.
- (C) Economic and Financial.
 1. Maintenance of the importation and distribution of food supplies.
 2. Representation of Palestine before the IEFC.
 3. The release after 15 May 1948 of sterling balances blocked by the Treasury Order of 22 February 1948.
 4. The future of the Palestine Currency Board.
 5. Maintenance of import and exchange controls.
 6. The continuity of essential fiscal arrangements, including customs and budgetary matters.
 7. Matters relating to the assets and liabilities of Palestine.
 8. Payments for services which will be provided to British Forces after 15 May in such matters as railway, road, and harbor facilities.

The Mandatory Power has recognised the Commission as the successor authority in Palestine. The Commission is of the opinion that its legal status and its duties remain substantially unaltered until changed by action of the General Assembly. In view of the short period of time remaining until 15 May, the prospect that the General Assembly might make provision for advance arrangements in regard to the above matters seems remote. Accordingly the Commission, believing that the Mandatory Power does not intend to abandon Palestine to complete chaos after 15 May, is prepared to hold itself at the disposal of the Mandatory Power to discuss the necessary arrangements that should be made immediately with respect to the above matters. The Commission would appreciate receiving the views of the Mandatory Power in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary.

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P.(N.Y.).64.
Palestine Distribution.

CONFIDENTIAL

12th April, 1948.

/Dear Bunche/

You will remember that last week you asked us to ascertain from His Majesty's Government whether they would agree to the Commission's proposal to send an official to Palestine to proceed with the preliminary organisation and recruitment of British personnel for a Special Emergency Security Force for Jerusalem to be formed on a volunteer basis.

2. His Majesty's Government have now agreed to this proposal on the understanding that the proposed force is not that to be appointed by the Governor under the Jerusalem Statute, but is a purely ad hoc emergency force to be formed and paid for by the Commission to maintain security in Jerusalem during the interim period after the 15th May. It is understood that the Commission fully appreciate that there can be no question of the proposed force coming into being before the 15th May.

3. I may add, for the information of the Commission, that steps are being taken by the Government of Palestine to ascertain the numbers and ranks of British police who would volunteer for services with this special force on terms not less favorable than their existing terms of service. This information will take a week or two to collect, particularly in view of the difficulties of communication in Palestine. The Government of Palestine have pointed out that at this late hour a number of police, who would have volunteered some time ago, have had to accept other opportunities of employment in the absence of the request which has now been made so that the numbers presenting themselves as volunteers may be small.

4. The Government of Palestine have added that they will give every possible facility to any representative which the Commission may send to Palestine for this purpose but they point out they will not be able to assist any such representative to travel around the country which conditions in Palestine will probably preclude.

/Yours sincerely/

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary to the United
Nations Palestine Commission
United Nations
Lake Success, N.Y.

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Foreign Office (2)

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P.(N.Y.).65.
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CONFIDENTIAL.

12th April, 1948.

[Dear Bunche]

I have been asked to bring to the notice of the Commission the question of the maintenance of and repairs to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem. At the same time I have been asked to emphasise the importance of early attention being given to this question by a successor administration as soon as circumstances permit.

2. Up to the 15th May the responsibility for this work will remain with the Government of Palestine. After that date it will presumably pass to the Commission. It is not, however, practicable to cease work on a given date and resume it later; the repairs and maintenance required in respect of the fabric of these two churches are a continuing demand varying in nature from day to day but ever present and of such a kind that they will be necessary, at any rate until such time as permanent reconstruction is effected.

3. Owing to conditions arising from the circumstances of withdrawal of the administration, the Public Works Department, which has hitherto been responsible for the service in question, will shortly become unable to discharge it. The Government of Palestine feel that everything possible should be done to ensure that this work continues. The only body which appears to be capable of undertaking the work during the forthcoming and possibly difficult period after the termination of the Mandate, is the Jerusalem Municipal Commission. This body which will, it is hoped, continue to function after the termination of the Mandate, has a competent engineering department and it is therefore proposed to hand over forthwith to the Municipal Commission responsibility for repairs and maintenance of the two churches in question.

4. At the present time the funds of the Municipal Commission are low as a result of the almost complete cessation of the main source of revenue during the recent weeks and the Municipal Commission itself has no funds therefore to cover this work, which is estimated to cost about £1100 during the next eight months or so. The Government of Palestine has therefore proposed, and His Majesty's Government have approved, that a sum not exceeding £1500 should be advanced to the Municipal Commission for this purpose, to be accounted for in due course.

[Yours sincerely]

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine
United Nations
Lake Success, L.I.

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[Yours sincerely]

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Palestine Commission
United Nations
New York, N. Y.

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Palestine Distribution.

United Nations Dept
Foreign Office

12th April, 1948.

/Dear Bunch/

3579 4 71

I understand from reports which have appeared in the press that Mr. Moshe Shertok, on behalf of the Jewish Agency, has sent a letter to the Chairman of the Commission regarding the position of Jewish food supplies in Jerusalem.

I have now received a report from the Government of Palestine on the matter and should be grateful if you would bring the following information to the notice of the Commission:

- (1) The maintenance of food supplies for the Jewish population of Jerusalem is largely a matter of ensuring free passage of traffic on the thirty-seven kilometre stretch of the Jerusalem-Jaffa road between Latrun and Jerusalem.
- (2) Very early in the disturbances which have occurred in Palestine since 29th November, 1947, attacks on traffic using this road were made by both Jews and Arabs. It is difficult to say who initiated these attacks, but it is fairly certain that firing action was first taken by the Jews after their vehicles had been stoned by Arabs in Ramleh.
- (3) The situation then developed into a fight for control of the road. The Arabs, no doubt in order to facilitate action by their troops, withdrew all their own vehicles from the stretch of the road in question and were then secure in the knowledge that any civilian traffic which they cared to attack must be Jewish.
- (4) The Jews then appealed for assistance. During December certain escorts were provided by the Army and the Police; but it became the Jewish practice to produce at the convoy rendezvous more vehicles than had been arranged for, with the result that the escort provided was insufficient. The blame for this was laid by the Jews on the Government of Palestine.
- (5) It will be appreciated that to ensure absolute security on a stretch of road thirty-seven kilometres long winding through rough and hilly country with frequent steep gradients and deep narrow and tortuous defiles is a matter of extreme difficulty. It was quickly found (indeed the security forces had always known) that it was useless to rely on large cumbersome slow-moving convoys such as the Jews depended upon and to which they resorted against all the advice of the security authorities.
- (6) Instead a system of standing and also highly mobile military and police patrols was instituted with the object of keeping the whole road under constant surveillance. As a result of these measures the situation improved and traffic began to move more freely.
- (7) Such Jewish reversals as were then suffered were usually traceable to the employment by the Jews of long slow columns of armoured and unarmoured vehicles similar to those referred to above.
- (8) Meanwhile, efforts were made by the Government of Palestine to persuade the Arabs to allow Jewish food convoys to pass unimpeded, provided that nothing but food was carried; that Jewish accompanying personnel were reduced to a minimum; and that the convoys were subject to search at some selected point.

/(9) There

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine
United Nations
Lake Success, L.I.

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- It is thus clear that the Jews, far from not being permitted to bring convoys through, are being given every possible assistance by the Government of Palestine and the security forces to do so. Such assistance cannot, however, be fully effective.

- Two large convoys have come through during the past week, but the present situation looks like developing into a general battle between Jews and Arabs for the command of the road, with perhaps some thousands engaged on each side. It is reported that the Arabs are using artillery.

During the twenty-four hours 9th-10th April, the roads between Latrun and Ramleh, between Jenin and Haifa and between Jenin and Affula have been blown up at many points, so that the Jerusalem-Latrun road is by no means the only one involved in this general attack on road communications.

It should be emphasised again that the problem is not one of food shortage in Palestine as a whole. The Government of Palestine has reported that there is food available in Palestine to maintain the necessary supplies for Jerusalem. The problem is entirely one of the transport of this food from the ports to Jerusalem.

It may be added that transport by rail to Jerusalem is ruled out because even if trains succeeded in escaping Arab attacks or sabotage en route, the railway station at Jerusalem is in a predominantly Arab area, and the Arabs would not permit off-loading of food destined for the Jews. Any attempt to do this would result in a major engagement.

Every effort will be made by the Government of Palestine, by appeals to the interested parties and by all other possible means should those appeals subsequently fail, to ensure adequate supplies for Jerusalem until the termination of the Mandate.

/Yours sincerely/

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

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P. (NY) No. 60

Palestine Distribution

URGENT
CONFIDENTIAL

5th April, 1948.

May I refer to your letter of the 25th March in which you conveyed to me the views of the Commission on the proposals of His Majesty's Government in the matter of food supplies for Palestine, which were set out in my letter of the 18th March.

2. The Commission's views have been conveyed to His Majesty's Government, who have asked that the following points should be brought to the notice of the Commission:-

(1) As regards sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 3 of your letter of the 25th March, His Majesty's Government are glad to note that the Commission accept financial obligation for supplies received after the 15th May.

(2) It is, however, quite impossible for the Government of Palestine to advance money for the procurement of these supplies since, apart from the question of principle, it has no monies available for this purpose.

(3) The Government of Palestine is already in deficit and His Majesty's Government have been obliged to advance a substantial sum to meet outstanding commitments, of which the existing food bill is some three million pounds sterling, only part of which may be recovered.

(4) In addition, the deficit at the 15th May as a result of declining revenue is likely to be very substantial.

(5) The proposal in paragraph 2 of your letter of the 25th March would in effect mean that His Majesty's Government would have to advance the money and this His Majesty's Government are not prepared to do.

(6) In view of the uncertainty of future developments in Palestine, His Majesty's Government cannot feel confident that the Commission will now be in a position to implement within a reasonable time a guarantee to re-imburse His Majesty's Government out of the future revenues of Palestine (sub-paragraph 4 of paragraph 3 of your letter of the 25th March refers).

(7) As regards sub-paragraph 5 of paragraph 3 of your letter of the 25th March, His Majesty's Government consider that the disposal of Palestine Currency Board funds would be a matter on which the views of the successor currency authority should be obtained. Under the General Assembly's Partition Plan, this was envisaged to be the Joint Economic Board and until the future currency authority is set up, the disposal of any such funds must rest in abeyance.

/ (8) His

Br. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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(8) His Majesty's Government can, therefore, only undertake procurement for the period in question on an agency basis, i.e. if they are put in funds at the time that payment is required by the suppliers. Sub-paragraph 2(b) of paragraph 2 of my letter of the 18th March suggested means by which the Commission might be able to make funds available. The total amount required for supplies up to the end of June would be of the order of one to one-and-a-half million pounds sterling.

(9) This question is now a matter of great urgency since if continuity of supplies to Palestine is not to be interrupted, it is essential that shipping arrangements should be made within the next week or ten days. Failing that, His Majesty's Government understand that on the 15th May Palestine's stock of cereals will not exceed two weeks' supply except insofar as the position may be covered by private importers, a point upon which further information is being sought from the Government of Palestine.

(10) If the arrangements referred to in sub-paragraph (8) above are not possible, the Commission might wish to consider approaching the Secretary-General with a view to funds being provided for this purpose. His Majesty's Government understand that the Secretary-General has powers to advance up to two million dollars at his own discretion and further amounts with the agreement of the Advisory Committee out of the Working Capital of the United Nations for purposes of urgent economic rehabilitation. It appears to His Majesty's Government that the financing of urgent supplies for Palestine would come within this definition. In any case, if for any reason this were not immediately possible, the support of the Secretary-General might well facilitate the making of arrangements on the lines referred to in sub-paragraph (8) above.

3. I should be grateful for an expression of the Commission's views as soon as possible.

(for) J. Fletcher-Cooke.

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P.(N.Y.) No. 61

Palestine Distribution

6th April, 1948.

Dear Buncho

May I refer to paragraph (a) of your letter of the 5th March on the subject of the future of the Palestine Museum.

2. I have now received the following additional information from Jerusalem which may be of interest to the Commission:-

(1) A Bill has been drafted which will shortly be enacted providing for the establishment of a Museum Trust and also providing that the first Curator of the Museum should be the person acting as Keeper at the time of the commencement of the new Ordinance.

(2) Mr. L.H. Iliffe, the present Keeper of the Museum, will thus automatically become the first Curator.

(3) Subsequent appointments will be made by the Board of Trustees.

(4) The Director of Antiquities has asked the appropriate Institutions to nominate their representatives as Trustees.

(5) The Bill is so drafted as to permit the working of the Trust as soon as even one member of the Board is appointed and the Government of Palestine are confident that they can arrange this before the 15th May.

(6) The proposal for an interim Executive Committee will, therefore, be dropped.

(7) With effect from the coming into force of the new Ordinance, the income of the Museum Endowment Fund will cease to be payable to Government's Account but during the short period which will elapse between the date of the coming into force of the Ordinance and the termination of the Mandate the Government will continue to finance the Museum and its staff out of General Revenue. This is a small measure of assistance to eke out the income from the Fund which is not in itself sufficient to maintain the full and proper functions of the Museum.

(8) With effect from the 15th May, the Museum's sole source of income until and unless a successor authority makes available funds from the General Revenues of Palestine will be from the interest on the Endowment.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Palestine Commission,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

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P.(NY) No. 62

Palestine distribution

CONFIDENTIAL

6th April, 1948.

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Dear Bunche

May I refer you to my letter of the 1st April on the subject of a Police Force for Jerusalem.

2. You will recall that in sub-paragraph (v) of paragraph 2 of his official letter of the 30th January, to the Chairman of the Commission, Sir Alexander Cadogan gave certain information as to the cost of a Security Force of one thousand non-Jewish, non-Arab personnel. It was stated that a force of this size would cost more than £P40,000 per mensem, excluding the cost of accommodation, arms and ammunition, and the capital cost of transport. It was also stated that a mixed Municipal Force of 300 Arabs and 300 Jews would cost about £P12,000 per mensem.

3. On or about the 2nd March, I received a verbal enquiry from a member of your staff who was engaged on certain work connected with the preparation of the Jerusalem Statute as to what other costs would be involved in maintaining a special Jerusalem City Police Force of one thousand non-Palestinians. This information has now reached me and is as follows:-

(1) On the assumption that accommodation, arms, ammunition and transport will be available from the assets of the Palestine Police Force for immediate use by the new Jerusalem Force if and when it is formed, the annual cost of maintaining this "capital" equipment (in addition to the sum of £P40,000 per mensem referred to above) would be

(a) Rent for accommodation	£P21,000 per annum
(b) Maintenance of this accommodation	£P 5,000 " "
(c) Cost of replacing arms and ammunition	£P 8,000 " "
(d) Cost of maintaining and replacing transport	£P20,000 " "

Total ... £P54,000 " " *
(say, £P 5,000 per mensem)

(2) This would give a total figure for the maintenance of one thousand non-Palestinians of £P45,000 per mensem or £P540,000 per annum.

4. A note explaining how this figure of £P54,000 per annum is arrived at is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Palestine Commission,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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NOTE

ACCOMMODATION

The present strength of the British Police in Jerusalem is approximately 1,000 and, therefore, it is suggested that the accommodation at present occupied by British Police personnel would form a convenient basis for calculating the requirements of 1,000 non-Palestinian Police, with costs as in the last financial year.

<u>Rent (Financial Year 1947/8)</u>		LP.
1.	Generali Billet	6,000
2.	Anglo-Palestine Bank Buildings	2,000
3.	Slihit Building (Officer and C.I.D. Billet)	6,600
4.	Police Headquarters (Russian Compound)	3,800
5.	German Colony Police Station	180
6.	Greek Colony Billet	285
7.	Carmelite Monastery Billet	900
8.	Mustashfa Police Station	326
9.	Meashorim Police Station and Billet	275
Total .. LP		20,366

Maintenance (Actual Expenditure - Financial Year 1947/8)

1.	Force Training Centre (Government owned)	1,000
2.	New Secretariat Buildings " "	500
3.	Generali Billet	200
4.	Anglo-Palestine Bank Buildings	100
5.	Slihit Building (Offices & C.I.D. Billet)	150
6.	Police Headquarters (Russian compound)	150
7.	German Colony Police Station	25
8.	Greek Colony Billet	20
9.	Carmelite Monastery Billet	200
10.	Mustashfa Police Station	35
11.	Meashorim Police Station	65
Total ... LP		2,445

The Director of Public Works advised increasing the estimate to LP 5,000 to allow for contingencies.

ARMS & AMMUNITION

Assuming that the scale of arms for the New Force will be similar to that of the Palestine Police Force, and that the allowance of ammunition for training purposes will also be similar to that of the Palestine Police Force, then the approximate annual cost of maintaining armaments will be as follows:-

Arms spares	500
Armourers' tools	150
Training stores	100
Training ammunition	7,000
	<hr/>
Total ... LP	7,750

2. The present allowance of ammunition for training is much greater than that of the British Army.

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P.(N.Y.) 68

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CONFIDENTIAL

3519 4 31

17th April, 1948.

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/Dear Bunchg7

May I refer you to your letter of the 13th April on the subject of Food Supplies for Palestine,

2. The Commission's views as set out in that letter have been communicated to His Majesty's Government but in the meanwhile I have received certain information from Jerusalem relating to the measures which have been taken locally as regards the issue of import licenses to private importers. This information is as follows:-

(1) On the 10th April, import licenses were issued by the Food Controller in Palestine for food requirements for two months after the 15th May, as follows:-

(a) To Steel Brothers for the Arab sector:

14,300 tons Australian wheat flour
2,400 tons British refined sugar
125 tons Australian canned meat

(b) To the Jewish Agency for the Jewish sector:

11,700 tons Australian wheat flour
1,800 tons British refined sugar
125 tons canned Kosher meat
400 tons frozen meat

(2) The licenses to Steel Brothers were issued on behalf of the Arab Chambers of Commerce.

(3) As regards the Jewish Agency, it is understood that it is their intention to entrust the purchase and importation of these food supplies to Steel Brothers.

(4) It is also understood that Steel Brothers are advancing 80% of the cost of these imports and that the Arabs and the Jews are providing the balance of 20%.

3. Subsequent information which has been received from His Majesty's Government is as follows:-

(1) As regards wheat flour, the Ministry of Food will supply against a confirmed irrevocable credit to be provided by Steel Brothers in London.

(2) As regards canned and frozen meat, it is not possible for procurement from Australia to be authorised but the Ministry of Food will advise Steel Brothers' representative in London of an alternative source of supply on the assumption that Steel Brothers will be responsible for settling the cost direct. As it is probable that this source will be a hard currency country, it will be made clear to Steel Brothers that hard currency requirements in respect of imports for the Jewish sector will have to be provided in toto from Jewish dollar resources. Hard currency in respect of essential imports for the Arab sector will be made available by the Controller of Foreign Exchange in Palestine.

(3) As regards sugar, The Ministry of Food have enquired of the Government of Palestine why these additional amounts are required and have pointed out that any such amounts as may be agreed to will have to be paid for in dollars, though in accordance with the normal arrangements, dollars will be made available by the Controller of Foreign Exchange in Palestine in respect of any amount required by the Arab sector.

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(4) As regards wheat and oil seeds, certain proposals have been made by the Government of Palestine but no final decision has been reached and discussions are still proceeding with the Ministry of Food.

(5) His Majesty's Government have also agreed that additional sterling releases will, if necessary be approved in respect of any sterling expenditure incurred in respect of imports agreed to above, if the releases approved should prove insufficient.

Yours sincerely,

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Palestine Commission,
United Nations,
Lake Success, N.Y.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Palestine Distribution

CONFIDENTIAL

20th April, 1948.

Dear Buncho,

May I refer to your letter of the 25th March regarding certain equipment at Lydda Airport.

2. In the second paragraph of your letter, you stated that the Commission would welcome the technical assistance of the Government of Palestine in determining what equipment will be required.

3. I now enclose a schedule of items which, in the opinion of the Director of Civil Aviation, Palestine, require replacement or supply.

4. The Director of Civil Aviation considers that the items shown under the heading "(a) Radio Aids to Navigation" should be given priority over the items shown under the heading "(c) Point to Point and Air/Ground/Air Channels", as they more directly affect the safety of aircraft. It will be observed that items are included in this schedule which already exist at Lydda but it is considered desirable to state the condition and usefulness of these items, even where they do not require replacement.

Yours sincerely,

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Buncho,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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SCHEDULE

(a) RADIO AIDS TO NAVIGATION

The following information has been related to PICA0 Document 2553 COT 26 dated January 1947

- | | <u>Remarks</u> |
|--|--|
| (i) <u>M/F Radio Beacon (2KW)</u> | Installed and functioning efficiently. No requirement for new beacon provided spares easily available when required. |
| (ii) <u>HF D/F Station (Short Range)</u> | A completely new installation is required. The present equipment will suffice for a little longer. |
| (iii) <u>VHF D/F</u> | The present VHF D/F can be used in emergency only. A new up-to-date installation is required, such as the cathode ray type. |
| (iv) <u>EUREKA Responder Beacon</u> | The present beacon is completely worn out. This is an immediate requirement. |
| (v) <u>BABS M.K. II</u> | This should be retained until PICA0 recommendations lay down definite policy, equipment is serviceable; but because of recent theft no spares are available. |
| (vi) <u>Instrument Landing system</u> | None available at the Airport. Although the weather is almost constantly good, there are times when some system of blind approach is necessary, especially as the Hamallah hills are high, and low approach is dangerous. Also power failures are frequent in wet weather and flarepaths become unreliable.

VHF equisignal localiser and glide path equipment is required and PICA0 state that it should be installed as soon as possible. If the above equipment is not available, a type SCS51 equipment complete should be made available. |

(b) Signals Equipment.

The most urgent need is complete renewal of the equipment in the Flying Control Tower, and the following suggestions indicate the desirable minimum:

(i)	<u>V.H.F. Transmitters</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Type</u>
	Airfield Control	4	GEC BRT 106
	Approach Control	1	Transmitter required with output of 500 watts

(ii) V.H.F. Receivers/

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(ii)	<u>V.H.F. Receivers</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Type</u>
	Airfield and approach Control	5	GEC BRT 180
	H.F. P/T Transmitter and Receiver	2 of Modifusion G 61 each. Transmitter GEC Single Channel Receiver.	
(iii)	<u>VHF C/F</u>		
	Homer	1	Complete Marconi Installation. No details available.
(iv)	<u>High Power Installations H.F.</u>		
	SWB88 Marconi	2	These transmitters have been recently installed and providing spares can be obtained, will last indefinitely.
	RCA 4331	3	As above.
	<u>Medium/Low Power Transmitters H.F.</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(v)	RCA 4332	3	These transmitters have been recently installed and providing spares can be obtained will last indefinitely.
(vi)	T 1190	6	These Transmitters are old R.A.F. Type and are obsolete and very unsatisfactory for every-day use.
(vii)	TFM 2 Marconi	1	Has recently been overhauled but the transmitter is an old model and needs replacing.
(viii)	ELI	1	Needs overhauling and is an old model.
(ix)	T 1154	1	Needs replacing by standard equipment.
	<u>V.H.F. Equipment</u>		
(x)	T 1131	4	All old ex R.A.F. equipment needing replacement.
	R 1152	5	
(xi)	<u>Receivers</u>		
	Hammerlund Super Pro 1		Need for Standardisation. Already in hand.

SX 28/

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SX 25

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SX 28's can be kept as
Standby receiver

(c) Point to Point and Air/Ground/Air Channels.

(i) Transmitters

The type T 1509 Transmitters have been ordered and if amplifying equipment is forthcoming, and additional 9 should be ordered for to cover all immediate and projected channels, and should be introduced over a period to replace gradually existing equipment.

(ii) Receivers

The Stratton Receiver Type 504 has been ordered, and an additional six should be ordered to cover our immediate and projected channels outlined above."

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION INDEXED
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Palestine Distribution

21st April, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bunche⁷

May I refer you to paragraph 3 of my letter of the 17th April in which reference was made to the text of the Directive to be issued to the General Officer Commanding, Palestine.

2. I now enclose for the information of the Commission a copy of this Directive, the text of which will be placed in the Libraries of the Houses of Parliament in London at 12 noon, British Summer Time, on Wednesday, 21st April.

Yours sincerely⁷

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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DIRECTIVE BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT FOR
GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING BRITISH TROOPS
IN PALESTINE

Period Covered by Directive.

This Directive will come into force on the relinquishment by His Majesty's Government of the British Mandate for Palestine, and will operate until the evacuation of British forces from Palestine is completed.

Object.

2. In accordance with directives issued by the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Land Forces, you will be responsible:-

- (a) for the orderly evacuation of our forces.
- (b) for the evacuation. Stores will be evacuated up to the latest possible moment and to the greatest extent that circumstances permit. You will ensure that no weapons or ammunition are abandoned in Palestine in serviceable or repairable condition.

Powers.

3. During the period covered by this Directive the basis of the powers which you may exercise will be that you are the Commander of a military force in occupation of foreign territory.

You have overriding military jurisdiction in certain areas, specified by yourself, from time to time, which will override all other law and authority in these areas. In these areas you have the power to exercise complete control in all matters including law and order, requisitioning, control of transportation, and so on, but should exercise it only insofar as it is essential for the protection of our forces and for the orderly progress of the evacuation.

So long as the conditions allow you will ensure the orderly evacuation of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel and stores by means of close co-operation with Commodore, Palestine, and the Air Officer Commanding, Levant. Should it be necessary to use Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel to assist in maintaining law and order, you will authorise these officers to act on your behalf. If you consider a state of emergency has arisen, you have the power, after informing the other two Service Commanders, to assume command of all Service personnel in Palestine.

4. You may extend or decrease at your discretion the areas in which you wish to exercise your overriding military jurisdiction.

5. You will exercise your overriding jurisdiction, and specify the areas in which you wish to exercise it, by the issue of proclamations.

Proclamations.

6. You should immediately on the relinquishment of the Mandate issue proclamations stating your overriding military jurisdiction and the areas in which it is to run, including territorial waters where relevant; warning the civil population to abstain from actions calculated to interfere with the progress of the evacuation, and stating that such actions will be punishable by the military authorities; specifying the offences which will be triable by the military authorities; and setting up courts in which these offences will be tried.

Responsibilities/

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7. You have no responsibility for the preservation of law and order in any part of Palestine except as required by you for the protection of our forces and for the purpose of evacuation. You should, however, take whatever steps may be possible, and in keeping with your main responsibilities under this Directive, to protect the lives of British subjects in the areas in which your troops are located.

9. All expenditure on civil administration of the areas under your control should be met by whatever civil authorities are functioning in the areas.

Relations with other authorities.

12. You will be assisted in such dealings by a political adviser to be seconded by the Foreign Office.

Immigration.

The War Office,
1st April, 1948.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

20th April, 1948.

11-1-50

5ear Bunche7

May I refer you to paragraph 2 of the Incident Report for the 9th April, in which reference was made to the attack by Jews on the Arab village at Deir Yassin.

2. The following supplementary information is now available as regards this incident:-

(1) The operation is believed to have been a joint National Military Organisation - Stern Group enterprise undertaken with the knowledge of the Haganah.

(2) The deaths of some 250 Arabs, men, women and children, which occurred during this attack, took place in circumstances of great savagery.

(3) Women and children were stripped, lined up, photographed, and then slaughtered by automatic firing and survivors have told of even more incredible bestialities.

(4) Those who were taken prisoner were treated with degrading brutality.

(5) Although the Haganah is unable to deny that it gave covering fire to the terrorists responsible for this outrage, the action as a whole has been condemned by the Jewish press and denounced by the Chief Rabbinate.

(6) Owing to other pre-occupations, the Security Forces were not in a position to act before the 14th April, for which day an air strike at Deir Yassin was arranged.

(7) On the 12th April, it became apparent that the Hagana had taken over the village from the terrorists, and the operation was, therefore, suspended.

(C) The Government of Palestine reported on the 14th April that it had not yet been possible to enter Deir Yassin and that a Jewish Police Officer sent to investigate was not allowed by the Hagannah to proceed beyond Givat Shaul.

(9) A representative of the International Red Cross who visited Deir Yassin on the 11th April is said to have stated that in one cave he saw heaped bodies of some 150 Arab men, women and children, whilst in a stronghold a further 50 bodies were found.

Yours sincerely

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Buncho,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Pa(N.Y.) 74

Palestine Distribution

CONFIDENTIAL

20th April, 1948.

Dear Bunch⁷

In continuation of my letter of the 17th April regarding Food Supplies for Palestine, the following additional information is now available.

2. Reference sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 3 of my letter, it has now been confirmed that Steel Brothers will open irrevocable credits on the Ministry of Food in London.
3. As regards sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 3 of my letter, discussions are still proceeding as to the sources from which the canned and frozen meat will be provided.
4. As regards sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 3 of my letter, the Government of Palestine is now satisfied that the future position in respect of sugar will be safeguarded by shipments afloat and due to be loaded and that it will not be necessary for it to take steps to facilitate the procurement of further supplies of sugar. Sugar will, therefore, be deleted from the licenses already issued.
5. As regards sub-paragraph (4) of paragraph 3 of my letter, Jewish requirements in respect of oils and oil seeds will be purchased with Jewish gift dollars and it is proposed to make an allocation to the Arabs of one thousand tons of oil which will be procured by Steel Brothers.
6. The Government of Palestine has suggested to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that, since Steel Brothers on the termination of the Mandate will be responsible for the liquidation of Government stocks afloat, on hand, or ordered on Government Account before the 15th May, and also for negotiating the purchase of the supplies referred to in this correspondence and, bearing in mind the winding-up arrangements in the Food Controller's office in Palestine, wherever possible future negotiations should be conducted directly with Steel Brothers in London.

Yours sincerely,⁷

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunch,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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P.(M.Y.)75

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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20th April, 1948.

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Bunche

The Commission will no doubt wish to have the following information regarding the position of German internees in Palestine.

- (1) The latest information is that there are between 270 and 300 German internees who wish to leave Palestine before the end of the Mandate.
- (2) The Security authorities are emphatically of the opinion that their lives will be in real danger unless they are evacuated and past experience entirely confirms this.
- (3) Discussions are proceeding between the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of Palestine and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia with a view to the ultimate reception of these internees in Australia for settlement there.
- (4) In view of the circumstances prevailing at present in Palestine, it is considered desirable that these internees should be sent at the earliest moment to a transit camp outside Palestine and discussions are now proceeding with a view to removing these internees, either to Cyprus or to a military camp in Egypt, under the auspices of the International Refugee Organisation.
- (5) German funds are likely to be available to cover all expenses.
- (6) The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia have been asked to send a liaison officer to Palestine as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements for their ultimate shipment to Australia.

2. The settlements at Balghair and Bethlehem, near Haifa, where these internees are at present confined, were attacked by members of the Haganah at 4.0 a.m. on the 18th April and occupation of the settlements by the Haganah was completed by 6.0 a.m. Two internees were killed and four slightly wounded, but there were no casualties among the British and Arab guards.

3. In view of these developments and of the imminent danger to Germans at Balghair, it is hoped to evacuate them either to Cyprus or to Egypt during the current week. The internees will only be able to take hand luggage with them and will have to leave behind valuable furniture and personal possessions.

Yours sincerely

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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Palestine Distribution.

CONFIDENTIAL

Eastern Dept.
Foreign Office
123
United Kingdom Delegation
to the United Nations

20th April, 1948.

Dear Bunche

May I refer you to Section 5 - Enemy Property, of paragraph 2 of the note on certain matters which was submitted for the information of the Commission on the 21st January, 1948.

2. I now enclose for the information and consideration of the Commission a memorandum on German Enemy Property and other assets under the control of the Palestine Custodian. As the Commission will observe, the position is, broadly speaking, that as much as possible of the Germany property in Palestine is being liquidated and will be transferred to the United Kingdom but that it will be physically impossible to liquidate quite a large amount. His Majesty's Government desires to place this fact on record with the Commission as an indication of the limit which the termination of the Mandate has placed upon British responsibilities in this matter.

3. Apart from the responsibility for accounting for German assets in Palestine, there are other responsibilities towards Allied Countries and under Peace Treaties with former Enemy Governments. These are fully described in the memorandum and His Majesty's Government consider that they, as well as the responsibility in regard to German assets, should be the concern of the Commission and any successor authority.

4. In conclusion, I would invite the particular attention of the Commission to section V of the memorandum, from which it will be observed that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom ask:-

- (1) For an assurance from the Commission that it recognises the responsibilities in respect of property under the control of the Palestine Custodian of Enemy Property, as described in the memorandum, particularly those which have to be fulfilled through His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom towards the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency, and
- (2) for an undertaking from the Commission that in any instrument for which the United Nations is responsible under which transfer of Government of Palestine is effected, there will be included suitable provisions requiring a successor authority to recognise the obligations and responsibilities as described in the memorandum and that those dischargeable towards the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency through His Majesty's Government will be so discharged.

Yours sincerely

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine
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Memorandum for United Nations Commission for Palestine.

GERMAN ENEMY PROPERTY, AND OTHER ASSETS

UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PALESTINE CUSTODIAN.

Memorandum as to International and other obligations involved

1. It is essential to bring to the notice of the United Nations Commission the nature and extent of the responsibilities and obligations which are borne by the present administration in Palestine in respect of property which has come under the control of the Palestine Custodian of Enemy Property by reason of the exercise of the powers contained in Trading with the Enemy legislation in Palestine. These responsibilities and obligations are of a continuing character and carry with them certain international commitments. It is accordingly necessary that the arrangements for the future administration of Palestine on the termination of the mandate should include provisions to ensure recognition and acceptance by any successor authority or authorities of these responsibilities and obligations.

NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE PRESENT CONTROL OVER
PROPERTY IN PALESTINE EXERCISED BY THE CUSTODIAN.

2. Under the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance No. 36 of 1939 of Palestine, the High Commissioner appointed a Custodian of enemy property in Palestine with a view to preventing the payment of money to enemies and of preserving enemy property in contemplation of arrangements to be made at the conclusion of peace. This custodian has control over enemy property in Palestine.

Enemy property under this Ordinance includes inter alia the property of states at war with His Majesty, of persons resident in any area under the sovereignty of or in occupation of a power with whom His Majesty is at war, of businesses controlled by enemies or incorporated in or under the laws of enemies. The Custodian's control continues until arrangements made at the conclusion of peace are implemented.

3. "Enemy property" over which the Custodian still has control falls into the following main categories:-

- (a) Property held in connection with states with whom His Majesty is still at war, i.e. Germany and Japan.
- (b) Property held in connection with states with whom His Majesty has concluded treaties of peace e.g. Italy, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Finland.
- (c) Property held in connection with territory formerly occupied by the enemy e.g. France, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Czechoslovakia.
- (d) Other property releasable to owners as not accountable as reparations.

4. The assets falling under the above three headings, (a), (b) and (c) consist primarily of immoveable property mostly of land. Estimates made by the Custodian of Enemy Property of these properties give a total of approximately £P20. But reliable estimates of values of property in Palestine at the present time, particularly of land, are impossible and while there is no doubt that the property under custodianship is very considerable in extent and value the foregoing figure should be treated with all reserve. (There

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are in addition other assets, particularly ecclesiastical property and property belonging to enemy subjects. Most of the ecclesiastical property is expected to be released from custodian control before the termination of the mandate.)

Because of the extraordinary difficulties in estimating values of property in Palestine, all the estimates quoted in this paper, which are derived from information furnished by the Custodian of Enemy Property, Palestine, should also be accepted with caution.

I. GERMAN ENEMY ASSETS IN PALESTINE

5. There are international obligations to be fulfilled (a) as to disposition of these assets and (b) as to accounting for their value. These obligations, which at the moment rest upon H.M. Government in the United Kingdom, should pass to the authority or authorities having jurisdiction in Palestine when the United Kingdom mandate is relinquished. These obligations arise as follows:-

THE GENERAL BACKGROUND

6. By the decision of the Berlin Conference of July/August, 1945, it was decided that, "the reparation claims of the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries to reparations shall be met and from appropriate German external assets". By the provisions of Article 6 of Part I of the Final Act of the Paris Conference on Reparation, "Each Signatory Government shall, under such procedures as it may choose, hold or dispose of German assets within its jurisdiction in manners designed to preclude their return to German ownership or control and shall charge against its reparation share such assets". Article 2 of Part IV of the Final Act states that "The signature of each contracting Government shall be deemed to mean that the effect of the present Agreement extends to territories under its protection or suzerainty or over which it at present exercises a mandate". Under Article 1F of Part I of the Final Act the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency must charge the reparation account of each Signatory Government for the German assets within that Government's jurisdiction, and each Signatory Government is required to render a return of the value of such assets as defined under Article 6 of Part I of the Agreement. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom signed the Paris Agreement on the 21st December, 1945, when it exercised a mandate over Palestine. Under the Final Act the share to be allocated to the United Kingdom (including all areas under its jurisdiction) of the total of German external assets, known as Category A, which are found to be available, is 28%. This means in effect that the United Kingdom is entitled to 28% of the total of all German assets in all countries signatory to the Final Act, which includes the United Kingdom, plus any other external assets, e.g. those made available in Neutral Countries. The division of this 28% as between the United Kingdom and all the Colonies including Palestine, is a matter for arrangement between the United Kingdom Government and the Colonial Governments concerned. Certain broad principles of division have already been tentatively decided upon, whereunder the Colonies and Palestine will each receive a proportion of the total United Kingdom receipts from reparations (including external assets) corresponding to the proportion of war damage sustained.

7. The position of accountable German enemy assets in Palestine under the international arrangements described above, and H.M. Government's responsibility in regard thereto is:-

(1) While these assets are within H.M. jurisdiction:-

(i) H.M. Government is required to see that German enemy assets in Palestine are so dealt with as to preclude their return to German ownership or control;

/(ii) H.M.

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(ii) H.M. Government must ensure that the value of them is included in the United Kingdom returns to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency;

(iii) the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency is required to charge H.M. Government's share with the value of these German enemy assets in Palestine.

(2) In determining the total of Category A assets for reparation purposes the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency includes all accountable German assets in Palestine.

(3) All German enemy assets in Palestine defined as accountable by the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency are reparations.

8. Had it been possible to liquidate the whole of German enemy assets in Palestine before the termination of the mandate the proceeds could have been transferred to the United Kingdom, and fully accounted for to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency, and adjustment eventually effected with Palestine to whom transfer would have been made of her share of the Colonial portion of the United Kingdom's Category A share of 28%. But this has not been possible and German enemy assets accountable to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency of considerable value will remain unliquidated when United Kingdom's jurisdiction in Palestine ends. The account for these to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency has to be made and H.M. Government seek an assurance from the United Nations Commission that this responsibility is recognised as one which the United Nations Commission should take steps to ensure is discharged by it, or any successor authority in Palestine through H.M. Government. H.M. Government would, for its part, be prepared to give an assurance that adjustment in respect of Palestine's share of the 28% of Category A reparations would be duly effected. In the meantime such liquid proceeds of German enemy assets in Palestine as are available for transfer when the mandate ends will be transferred

The total value of German enemy assets in Palestine, including liquidated proceeds, accountable as reparations is estimated at £5 million. Again for the reasons already stated this estimate must be treated with all reserve. Most of this property will remain in Palestine when the mandate ends.

9. Japanese assets in Palestine. The value and extent of these is negligible. They will, however, be required to be kept in custodianship pending a decision as to their disposal.

II. EX-ENEMY SATELLITE PROPERTY, E.G. ITALY, ROUMANIA, BULGARIA, HUNGARY AND FINLAND.

10. The Treaties of Peace concluded with Italy, Roumania, Bulgaria and Hungary all contain a similar provision, (articles 79, 27, 25 and 29 respectively), giving the right to the Allied and associated Powers to seize property of these ex-enemy nationals to meet claims, other than claims fully satisfied under other articles of the Treaties, property or the proceeds thereof in excess of such claims has to be returned.

11. The total value of assets under this category is estimated at £1.6 million.

12. An agreement has been made between the United Kingdom and Italy as to discharge of claims other than those covered by the Peace Treaty in return for release of the assets seizable under Article 70. This agreement has been extended to Palestine. The agreement will not however be fulfilled when the U.K. mandate ends.

13. Under these Peace Treaties there will thus be certain international rights and obligations resting upon any future administration of Palestine in respect of the property mentioned.

/III. Allied

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III. ALLIED PROPERTY

14. There is in Palestine property of a total value of about £13 million which has come under the control of the Custodian by reason of the owners being resident in or carrying on business in Allied territory during its occupation by the enemy. Property of a total estimated value of about £3.5 million is due to be released under arrangements made between His Majesty's Government and the Allied Governments under agreements which have been extended to Palestine. Although every effort is being made to make the maximum release of this property before the United Kingdom mandate ends there will still then remain a considerable amount of valuable property for which custodian arrangements ought to continue until these arrangements are fully carried out.

15. As to the balance of Allied property in Palestine, of an estimated value of £9.5 no agreement has yet been made by His Majesty's Government with the Allied Government concerned, e.g. Poland, Yugoslavia and China. All of this property will be unreleased from custodianship when the mandate ends.

IV. OTHER PROPERTY RELEASABLE TO OWNERS

16. Included in the Germany enemy assets held by the Custodian is a considerable amount of property belonging to German or former German nationals not resident in Germany. These German nationals are either those who settled in Palestine long prior to 3rd September, 1939 or are the descendants of those settlers. This property is not accountable to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency if it is released to owners who were not physically inside Germany or had their residence in Germany on 24th January, 1946, the operative date of the Paris Act. None of the owners are expected to take up residence in Germany. Some are already in Australia and have acquired British nationality as Australians. Some of the property of this category, which consists almost entirely of land, has been sold and the proceeds made available to the owners. In their provisions for administration of Palestine when the United Kingdom mandate ends the United Nations Commission is asked to include provision for continuance of the practice based on equity and international practice, of release to the persons entitled of assets of this kind which are not required to be accounted for as reparations under the provisions of the Final Act.

17. There are also assets of Allied or Neutral persons, who were resident in enemy territory, e.g. Germany or Italy, which should similarly be released to the persons entitled.

V. UNDERTAKING AS TO CUSTODIAN HELD
PROPERTY WHEN MANDATE ENDS

18. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom ask:-

- (i) For an assurance from the United Nations Commission that it recognises the responsibilities in respect of property under the control of the Palestine Custodian of Enemy Property, as described above, particularly those which have to be fulfilled, through His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, towards the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency; and
- (ii) for an undertaking from the United Nations Commission that, in any instrument for which the United Nations is responsible under which transfer of Government of Palestine is effected, there will be included suitable provisions requiring a successor authority

to recognise/

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to recognise the obligations and responsibilities as described and that those dischargeable towards the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency through His Majesty's Government will be so discharged.

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Palestine Distribution. 3519 4 3/ 22nd April 1948. 129

(Dear Bunche),

The Commission will no doubt wish to have the latest information available here about the position in Haifa.

2. Reports, which are subject to confirmation, have been received from Jerusalem to the effect that the situation in Haifa is as follows:-

(1) There has been heavy continuous fighting in Haifa Town since midday on the 21st April, after British Forces had withdrawn to positions covering the Port.

(2) Jewish attacks by night on Arab outposts at Burj Hill and Prophets' Steps and on the Telephone Exchange were successful.

(3) Khoury House, the headquarters of the Palestine Railways, was set on fire and was gutted with all records.

(4) Jewish Forces have captured Salamah Building and positions in the Station Street - Burj Hill area and are now closing in on Khamra Square.

(5) The fire in the Port caused by mortaring has been extinguished.

(6) Heavy firing continues with mortaring of the Suq (market) area, which is reported deserted.

(7) Arabs are evacuating in large numbers by sea to Acre.

(8) Total casualties are believed to be heavy, including one British Constable wounded.

(9) British Police at the Haifa lock-up are being evacuated and the prisoners released.

(10) Military authorities are helping in the evacuation with landing-craft.

3. The above Report is dated 9.40 a.m. Palestine Time, 22nd April.

(Yours sincerely),

(J. Fletcher-Cooke)

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
Principal Secretary to the United Nations
Commission on Palestine,
United Nations,
Lake Success.

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1948

PALESTINE

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E 3549

Registry Number E3549/4/31

FROM

Foreign Office
Minute
No. Mr. Beeley

Dated

Received } 16th Mar 1948
in Registry } 4th Feb 1949

Memoranda dealing with the possibility that H.M.G.
may before long wish to play a more positive part
in discussions concerning the future of Palestine.

Last Paper

E 3549

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
completed)

G.L. 10/1

(Index)

G.L. 10/1

Next Paper

E 3560

(Minutes.)

See within

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Minutes.

Not for entry
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Mr. Wright

I attach the Chiefs of Staff report on Palestine which the Secretary of State mentioned to you this morning and which he would like you and Mr. Beeley to study. This copy was brought to him personally by the Minister of Defence. It should therefore be treated as entirely confidential and the fact that we have seen it should not be revealed. For this reason the paper should not be entered, but should be returned to Private Secretary. You will no doubt wish to show it to Sir O. Sargent when minuting.

28th February, 1948.

In essence the proposals put forward by the Chiefs of Staff are very similar to those which the Secretary of State is now considering. They propose that we should take a more positive attitude towards the probable events in Palestine after the termination of the Mandate, and that we should endeavour to work through the U.S. Govt. and by using our influence with the Arab States.

Their application of these broad principles differs, however, from that suggested in the memorandum which was today submitted to the Secretary of State. They wish us to advocate an alternative to the General Assembly's plan, under which the proposed frontiers would be slightly, but not substantially, amended to the advantage of the Arabs and the greater part of the Arab territory incorporated in Transjordan. The idea seems to be that the Americans should be asked to submit a proposal on these lines to both the Arabs and the Jews.

I do not think the Arabs would react favourably to this approach, for the following reasons:-

(1) The Jews would obtain almost as much territory as is now awarded to them under the Assembly's/

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Minutes.

Assembly's plan.

(2) Our latest information suggests that it is most unlikely that Ibn Saud would agree in advance to the aggrandisement of Transjordan, even if bribed with the port of Aqaba.

(3) It is suggested, in paragraph 13(a), that the Arab States could be moved to accept this compromise if it was impressed on them that they would otherwise risk Russian penetration into Palestine, through the participation of Soviet troops in an international force and subsequently by means of influence over the Jewish State. But, if the Arabs are not already aware that the sending of an international force to Palestine is a remote possibility, they would certainly not fail to draw this obvious conclusion from the overture which it is suggested the Americans should make to them. They would thus not be afraid of Russian military intervention in the immediate future. As for the more distant prospect, it is true that for propaganda purposes the Arabs point to the possibility of Russian influence over the proposed Jewish state, but they probably attach more importance to the inevitable dependence of such a state on American financial support, and are likely to draw the inference that this dependence will keep it out of Russian orbit.

My conclusion would be that, while we should not go so far as to discourage proposals for the incorporation of large parts of Palestine in Transjordan, we should not at present commit ourselves to this definite proposal, but should first explore the ground informally with the Americans while at the same time pressing the Arabs in general terms to adopt a conciliatory attitude. It is more important to avoid a major conflict in Palestine than to arrive at any specific settlement, and our influence to this end will I think be greater if we remain for the time being uncommitted to any definite policy.

My/

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My only remaining comment is that the suggestion in paragraph 13(c), that we might at some stage bring the influence of Turkey and Pakistan to bear on the Arabs, is a useful one and should be kept in mind.

H. Beeley
2nd March, 1948.

I agree generally with Mr. Beeley.

As regards the details of the Chiefs of Staff plan, they apparently contemplate that the Negeb should remain Jewish as proposed by the United Nations and that Aboullah should only occupy the coastal strip near Gaza and the central Massif. This means he would not have access to the Mediterranean but the territory round Gaza would be an enclave in the Jewish state. It would clearly not be acceptable to him to give up Aqaba to Ibn Saud on this basis. It would in any case be difficult enough for him to consider any such surrender of territory. It would be impossible for him to do so unless he gained free access to the Mediterranean instead. I feel sure that any realistic scheme must include the loss of the Negeb by the Jews or at least the loss of a broad strip of territory adjoining the Gulf of Aqaba to the Mediterranean.

I do not think there will be any advantage in submitting this paper in advance of the paper which Mr. Beeley is now producing.

B. B. Brown
3rd March, 1948.

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PALESTINE

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Attached are two memoranda dealing with the possibility that His Majesty's Government may before long wish to play a more positive part in discussions concerning the future of Palestine. The first was asked for by the Secretary of State; the second was prepared for the Minister of Defence by the Chiefs of Staff.

It is not suggested in either paper that proposals for a settlement in Palestine should be made publicly by His Majesty's Government. The idea is rather that we should pool our ideas with the Americans, and that they should take any initiative which may result from our discussions with them.

The conclusion of the Foreign Office memorandum is that it would be more useful to discuss possible procedures for mediation between the Arabs and the Jews than to prepare a plan for acceptance as the basis of negotiations. The Chiefs of Staff, on the other hand, suggest that we should submit a specific proposal to the Americans. Apart from the Department's doubts as to whether this is in principle the best approach to the problem, I do not think the plan suggested by the Chiefs of Staff is sufficiently far removed from the General Assembly's Resolution to be acceptable to the Arabs.

H. Beeley

H. Beeley
16th March, 1948.

[Signature]

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PALESTINE.

The Possibility of Mediation.

Introduction

The United Nations Palestine Commission have referred to the Security Council "the problem of providing that armed assistance which alone would enable the Commission to discharge its responsibilities on the termination of the Mandate". The subsequent discussions in the Security Council do not suggest that the Commission will receive the armed assistance for which they have asked, and it seems likely that they will therefore decline to go to Palestine.

2. The absence of the United Nations Commission from the scene would make some difference to the legal position, but little or none to the course of events in Palestine after the 15th May. From that date the Jewish Government which is now being formed will claim, by virtue of the General Assembly's resolution, to be the legitimate successor of the Mandatory Administration in the parts of Palestine awarded by that resolution to the Jews. The Arabs on the other hand will claim that the whole country is theirs by natural right (and perhaps also by consequence of Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations).

3. Each side will attempt to substantiate its claim by force. The Jewish Agency on the one hand and the Arab League on the other are preparing for the hostilities which both regard as inevitable. Indeed their forces are already clashing almost daily with one another and with the British troops and police. If events are allowed to run their course, the present disturbances will develop after the 15th May into a destructive civil war.

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4. Both Arabs and Jews must be speculating as to what the outcome will be if the two peoples are left to reach a settlement through military conflict. A reasonable forecast seems to be that the Jews, left to themselves, would be driven out of the entire southern area awarded to them by the United Nations and would also lose North-Eastern Galilee, but that they would succeed in defending the coastal plain, including the cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa. The fate of the Plain of Estraelon and the Vale of Jezreel is less easy to foresee. Whatever the precise frontier on which the contending forces finally came to a standstill, the outcome would probably be some form of partition, and indeed the feelings aroused during the period of military operations might be such as to preclude a settlement involving any kind of unitary State.

5. A complicating factor in the situation is provided by internal rivalries on the Arab side. The Mufti of Jerusalem aims at personal control over an independent Arab State occupying the whole of Palestine. King Abdullah wishes to incorporate as much Palestinian territory as possible in the Kingdom of Transjordan, and would be prepared if it furthered his purpose to accept the establishment of a Jewish State in other parts of the country. It is possible that the Syrian Government have territorial ambitions in Palestine; however that may be, they appear to be supporting Fawzi Qawuqji, a guerrilla leader who is neither in Abdullah's camp nor in the Mufti's. Finally both the Syrians and Ibn Saud would view with hostility any proposal for the aggrandisement of Transjordan. Efforts are being made through the Arab League to keep these potential conflicts below the surface for the time being, and to concentrate in the immediate future on a united campaign against the Jews. All the member States are contributing to the organisation of a volunteer army, on Syrian territory and under Iraqi command. There appears to be a generally

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accepted plan for the establishment after the 15th May of a provisional military administration, to act under the guidance of a Committee of the Arab League, and for the postponement of controversial decisions concerning the form of government to be established when the fighting is over. Further consideration will no doubt be given to this plan when the Council of the Arab League meets again in Cairo towards the end of March.

6. An Arab-Jewish war in Palestine would be acutely embarrassing to the United States Government. They would be exposed to pressure from the Zionists for a relaxation in their favour of the existing embargo on the ~~export~~ of American war material to the Middle East, and resistance to this pressure would involve the risk of losing New York for the Democratic Party in the November elections. Yielding to the pressure, on the other hand, would carry with it other risks not less serious - the deepening of Arab antagonism towards the United States, and immediate interference, if not with existing oil supplies, at least with projects for their expansion. In view of this dilemma, and of their leadership in the effort to exclude Soviet influence from the Eastern Mediterranean, the United States Government would almost certainly feel bound to take the initiative in a last effort to avert war in Palestine if and when it became clear that the United Nations had failed in this task.

7. It therefore seems likely that the United States Government will approach us before long with proposals for a compromise in Palestine which they would hope to persuade Arabs and Jews to accept as a basis for negotiation. In view of this prospect we should ourselves have some idea of the limits within which mediation might have a chance of success, and we should have proposals in readiness which we could produce if the American suggestions proved to be impracticable or for some other reason unacceptable.

Limiting factors /

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Limiting factors.

8. It must be taken for granted that the Arabs will not be prepared to discuss any plan which does not involve a radical departure from the recommendations of the United Nations Assembly. These recommendations have probably made the whole idea of partition even more repugnant to Arab feeling than it was before. They have also enabled the Mufti of Jerusalem and other extremist leaders to evoke a spirit of resistance among the Arabs of Palestine which they will seek to utilise against any sort of compromise whatever. These leaders will no doubt work against the entry of Arab delegates into any negotiations which might be proposed, on the ground that once the tension in Palestine has been relaxed, it might be impossible to build up the resistance movement again to its present strength. The Arab States, on the other hand, are obviously reluctant to become involved in open warfare in Palestine, and the risks which their Governments now see immediately ahead of them may make them more, rather than less, receptive to proposals offering the possibility of a compromise.

9. So far as can be inferred from the inconclusive evidence at our disposal, those Arabs who are most ready to look for a compromise are thinking in terms of a unitary State in which the Jewish areas would be conceded a large measure of local autonomy, and which in addition might perhaps guarantee a limited amount of further Jewish immigration. Something of this kind (though without any provision for immigration) will no doubt be put forward if Arab representatives ^{agree} ~~are~~ to take part in conversations and if they are asked to table proposals. There is, however, a certain amount of evidence to show that some of the Arab leaders would resign themselves, if necessary, to the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, if the territory of that State were confined to the coastal plain from Tel Aviv northwards, together with the Plain of Esdraelon.

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10. The present state of mind of the Zionist leaders is more difficult to estimate. A large section of the community in Palestine is undoubtedly terrified of what may happen after the 15th May and would grasp with relief at almost any compromise which would avoid bloodshed. On the other hand, Hagana, which must by now be in a dominant position within the community, are probably determined to make an attempt to hold the frontiers awarded to the Jewish State by the United Nations. They have probably abandoned hope of any effective support from the Security Council, and their main effort in foreign relations is now no doubt to persuade the United States Government to lift the embargo on the supply of arms and ammunition. If there is a party in the Jewish Agency which is beginning to think in terms of a possible compromise, its primary objective will be to consolidate the existing position of the Jewish community in Palestine and to leave it in a position to make a further advance when circumstances are more propitious. With this end in view, it is improbable that they would agree to any settlement which did not give the substance of national independence to the Jewish people in some part of Palestine. The creation of a Jewish State is an essential condition of Jewish control over the rate and volume of future immigration, and of direct Jewish representation in the United Nations.

Possible proposals for a compromise

11. A glimpse of the ideas which the Americans may be preparing to put forward is provided by New York telegram No. 816, according to which Senator Austin is reported to have suggested, at a meeting with Russian, French and Chinese representatives on the 8th March, that conciliation should be attempted on the following basis:

- "(a) immigration of 100,000 Jews within two years,
number to diminish thereafter;
- (b) a cantonal system of Government for Palestine, but
- (c) /

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(c) separate representation of Jews and Arabs in the United Nations".

12. This suggestion has something in common with proposals which were put forward by His Majesty's Government in 1946 and 1947 and which the United States Government were unable to endorse at that time. By now it is almost certainly too late. There is perhaps a chance of Arab agreement to negotiate on this basis; there seems to be no chance that the Zionists would consider it in their present mood.

13. Even supposing that negotiations took place on this plan, it is difficult to see how (c) could be reconciled with (b). A further disadvantage is that, since the rate of immigration after the first two years would apparently be determined by the United Nations, the dispute over this subject would be indefinitely prolonged in New York and in all the capitals of the world.

14. A second possibility is that an attempt might be made to avert warfare by persuading the representatives of the two peoples to accept some interim settlement designed to hold the situation, without prejudice to either Arab or Jewish aspirations, until more permanent arrangements became feasible. (It is known that the Americans were at one time thinking in terms of a period of international trusteeship, and an interim settlement might take this form). The outline of a possible interim settlement is presented as Plan A in Annex I below.

15. It cannot be said however, that the prospects are brighter for an interim than for a final settlement. For the Zionists it would mean recognising the failure of the plan adopted by the General Assembly last November, and would therefore constitute a setback from which they could not hope fully to recover. On the other hand the Arabs would suspect that the plan was designed to save the General Assembly and the Zionists from total defeat, and to provide

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18. The obstacles to acceptance of this form of partition, unless and until it is proved necessary by a military stalemate, are however numerous and perhaps insuperable. The Jews will not voluntarily abandon their claim to so much territory/

territory while they have any hope left of influencing the American political parties in their favour. And the Arabs, seeing the United Nations in full retreat from the resolution of the 29th November, will not easily resist the temptation to press home their advantage by refusing to contemplate partition in any form.

Mediation without specific proposals.

19. The above analysis of what appear to be the only possible types of plan which could now be proposed to the two parties suggests that little hope can be placed in the procedure of drafting a plan and inviting Arabs and Jews to accept it as a basis for negotiation. This conclusion leads to the question: Is there any alternative procedure which would offer a better chance of peaceful settlement?

20. It will be recalled that, on Arab initiative, an attempt was made in New York during the last General Assembly to devise a new procedure for dealing with the Palestine problem. The suggestion was that Ibn Saud and a representative of the United States Government should make an attempt at joint arbitration. If they reached agreement, the other Arab Governments would accept their award. At that time the State Department considered that it would not be possible for the United States Government to enter into any separate negotiation with the Arabs unless and until the General Assembly had failed to arrive at a settlement.

21. It now seems likely that Ibn Saud would feel obliged to adopt a more intransigent line in any such negotiation than would have seemed necessary before the 29th November. The idea of joint arbitration might however be revived with Pakistan taking the place of Saudi Arabia. Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan emerged during the Assembly as a powerful but relatively temperate champion of the Arab cause. His considerable influence over the Arabs, and that of the United States Government over the Zionists,

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might together offer the best if not indeed the only chance of a bloodless settlement in Palestine. It is for consideration therefore, whether this should not be our first counter-proposal if the Americans lay suggestions before us and invite an exchange of ideas.

22. The fact must be faced that an Arab-Jewish war will probably be found to be unavoidable despite all possible efforts to prevent it. In that event, British interests would require the war to be fought with the smallest possible amount of external intervention and to be ended as quickly as possible. It follows that, since the United Nations cannot now dissociate themselves from the fate of Palestine, we should endeavour to persuade the Americans that the most practically helpful part which the Security Council could play is:-

- (i) to establish the principle of non-intervention and as far as practicable to ensure its observance;
- (ii) to create machinery for mediation which would be immediately available if and when the two parties desired to make use of it.

Conclusions

23. The object of this memorandum is to explore the ground in preparation for private conversations to which His Majesty's Government may be invited by the United States Government. It is not suggested that any of the proposals under discussion should be sponsored in public by His Majesty's Government. Our aim in any Anglo-American conversations would be to discuss the possibility of an American initiative with the object of averting civil war in Palestine. We should, however, probably be asked to support such an initiative with the Arabs behind the scenes, and the extent of our influence over American policy would naturally be increased if we were willing in principle to play this part.

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ANNEX I.

Plan A.

This plan would be presented not as a definitive settlement but as an interim arrangement under which war might be avoided while the discussion of Palestine's future continued. In essence it would provide for as much self-government as the two peoples proved capable of conducting in co-operation with one another, while retaining for the United Nations a right of supervision and a voice in the eventual settlement.

2. The suggested basis for negotiation would be a proposal that, for twelve months from the 15th May, 1948, Palestine should be administered as a unitary State by a Government containing both Arab and Jewish Ministers. The two communities would be represented on this central Government in rough proportion to their numbers in the country. The Jews, however would be to some extent safeguarded against the effects of their minority position by means of:

- (a) an agreement with regard to immigration, which the Government would not be empowered to amend;
- (b) extensive powers of local autonomy in a few large areas so defined as to give the Jews adequate scope for agricultural expansion.

3. If Jews and Arabs were willing to consider an interim arrangement, the prospect of agreement between them as to its character would depend primarily on the way in which it was proposed to treat the question of Jewish immigration. It would be necessary to establish in advance the rate of immigration for the twelve months' period, and the figure of 4,000 a month might reasonably be suggested. The local authorities in the Arab areas would have power to exclude Jews not now resident within these areas from settling there.

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- (a) to submit monthly reports to the Security Council.
- (b) to receive petitions from the Arab minority in the Jewish areas and from the Jewish minority in the Arab areas;
- (c) to supervise the arrangements made by the central and local authorities for the protection of the Holy Places and for the maintenance of free access to them;
- (d) to make recommendations to the Central Government concerning (b) and (c) above, and also concerning any threat to internal peace and security;
- (e) to initiate and participate in consultations designed to establish an agreed basis for the Government of Palestine after the 15th May 1949;
- (f) to report on the progress of these consultations to the third regular annual session of the General Assembly, and to communicate to final report on this subject to the Secretary-General so that a special session of the General Assembly might meet to consider this report not later than the 1st March, 1949.

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oved by:

- (a) the departure of British troops and administration;
- (b) the existence of a mixed Palestinian Government which, if agreement on the country's future could not be obtained as a result either of the negotiations conducted by the Commission in Palestine or of the deliberations of the Assembly, could be asked to continue its work for a further interim period.
- (c) the existence of a United Nations Commission with practical experience of Palestine's problems.

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ANNEX II.

Plan B.

The form of partition contemplated in this memorandum is a simple division of Palestine into two States, with no complicating corridors or enclaves and with no separate territorial régime for Jerusalem. The Jewish State would contain the Plain of Esdraelon from a point somewhat east of Afula to the sea), the port of Haifa and the coastal plain as far as Tel Aviv, with a southward extension passing between Jaffa and Lydda to include Rishon le Zion and Rehovoth. The remainder of the country would be Arab. (It has not been thought necessary to consider whether the Arab area would constitute a separate State or would be incorporated in Transjordan. The considerations involved would be more or less the same in either case).

2. A special régime for Jerusalem is not advocated here because it would result in depriving the Arabs of all the three principal cities of Palestine and leaving their State (whether attached to Transjordan or not) without its natural capital. Jerusalem could however be the seat of a United Nations Commissioner for the Holy Places, who would be responsible for the preservation of the Holy Places, and for maintaining free access to them, not in Jerusalem only but throughout the two States.

3. It has not yet been possible to work out the population statistics of this plan, but it seems certain that it would differ from most partition proposals by giving the Jews a majority of more than two to one in their own State; the calculations, when made, will probably show about 450,000 Jews to a little over 200,000 Arabs.

4. A consequential advantage of a partition under which the population of the Jewish State would be divided in these proportions is that it would leave the way open for an exchange of population (and incidentally of land) by which the

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the Jewish majority could be still more firmly established. There would be approximately 40,000 Jews living in agricultural on the territory of the Arab State. These colonists would almost certainly have to be exchanged, either as a consequence or as a condition of the partition, for a similar number of Arabs from the Jewish State. This would leave no Jews outside the Jewish State except the 100,000 urban residents of Jerusalem. Some of these might wish to leave, and some of the 70,000 Arabs of Haifa might wish to migrate to Jerusalem. But the arguments for a large-scale transfer of these urban communities are less convincing than in the case of rural populations. The problem of security would not arise so acutely in Jerusalem as in isolated settlements; it is obviously desirable that the Jews should be able to continue their religious and cultural work in Jerusalem; they and the Arabs of Haifa would moreover constitute hostages for one another, and this fact should find expression in the municipal organisation of the two cities.

5. Just as Jerusalem, though within the Arab State, would retain a special and recognised significance for the Jews, so Haifa would continue to be of great importance to the Arabs. Even if Haifa were incorporated in a Jewish State, and if at the same time the Arabs of the interior had direct access to Jaffa, it is most unlikely that the latter would supplant the former as the principal channel for their overseas trade. Arrangements for the use of Haifa harbour, and for the collection of customs on goods imported for the Arab State, would therefore form an essential part of the settlement now envisaged.

6. Other joint economic arrangements would also have to be made at the outset. The two States would be mutually dependent in various ways for their supplies of petrol,

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electric power, water for irrigation, and rail and road communications. To meet these problems, in addition to those arising from the religious and cultural importance of Jerusalem and the commercial importance of Haifa, there would have to be machinery for continuing co-operation between the two Governments. The working of this machinery, and the state of Arab-Jewish relations generally, would react one on the other and would together determine the fate of the whole experiment.

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E 3560

143

PALESTINE

17 MAR 1948

1948

Registry
Number } E3560/4/31

FROM

Foreign Office
No. Minute

Dated Mr, Beeley

Received } 28th Feb
in Registry } 17th MarUnited Nations Secretariat, Advance Party.

Gives account of conversation with Mr Stavropoulos a member of the Legal division of the United Nations Secretariat who is on his way to Jerusalem with the advance party. He made a number of interesting remarks re the attitude of the Security Council, and the attitude of the Palestine Commission

Last Paper.

3549

(Minutes.)

J.A.
7/3

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

J.L.H. 14/7

(Index.)

J.L.H. 2/48

Next Paper.

3572

F26513 F.O.P.

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10 8761	Palestine EASTERN	E3546 /G 145
E3546 / 4 / 31/9 Mr. Humphrey No 10 command dated 9 March	Palestine: Message from Field Marshal Smuts.	
Last Paper E317B	(Minutes)	
References	See within 1. Mr Watson C.O. to Mr. Newman (Top Secret) 12 March D.B. 18/3	
(Print)	2. C.O. command 14 March W.B. 19/3	
(How disposed of) dfr) Mr Watson C.O. Mr Roberts 13 March		
(Action completed) 25/9/3	(Index) W.B.	
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J. I. E. T. Henning Esq., L.C.
Foreign Office.

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9/3

See by Sept. 10th
with the Sec. of the
draft the mentioned the
with the Sec. of the
of the Sec. of the

Dr. J. L. Fungway's
Comments.

C.O. will send us their
draft. H3 only 1/3

Sent 12/3 and approved 4 5 d/5

273-
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10, Downing Street,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

St. Mary, 1940

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6th March, 1949.

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations from the High Commissioner for South Africa, which transmits a message about Palestine from Field Marshal Smuts to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if a draft reply could be submitted for his consideration, and perhaps you, in consultation where necessary with the Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence and Commonwealth Relations Office, would arrange for this to be done.

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to Jennifer and Richard Wood and a copy of the letter to East.

(Sig. 00.)

W. B. Watson, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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Ref. Q3. 16/1/1.

South Africa House,
Trafalgar Square,
London, W.C. 2.
8th March, 1948.

TOP SECRET

My dear Secretary of State,

My Prime Minister has sent me the following message on the Palestine situation for transmission to Mr. Attlee:-

"I cannot help expressing to you my feeling of deep concern over the Palestine situation as it is now developing. It can only end in a dreadful massacre of Jews and Arabs, in which the Jews may at first prevail only to run finally the risk of extermination by the combined Arab forces. A prospect is thus opening which will shock the conscience of mankind and can only strengthen the forces of disorder and Communism now darkening the future.

Great Britain cannot sit back and wash her hands in innocence in view of the Balfour Declaration and her close association with the Palestine peoples under her Mandate. I appreciate British disappointment and resentment over Jewish behaviour. But the Jews have been saddened by war suffering and misled by American sympathy, and now are riddled with criminal gangsters whom they fear and cannot control.

It comes down to a simple human situation in face of an awful impending tragedy, which must be limited if it cannot be prevented.

While

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While it is difficult for me to make suggestions at this distance I would mention two points.

Firstly: As some British forces will remain till August some provision might meanwhile be made for the security of the Holy Places like Jerusalem and Bethlehem, holy to Jews and Christians and Arabs alike.

Secondly: Is it not possible for the Palestine Administration even now to arrange with the Jews and Arabs that, pending abrogation of the mandate in May, they organise their local defences for their own security in their respective areas under partition? This would avoid a vacuum in security and at least show that Britain was prepared to give them both the chance to defend themselves against attack and massacre. In the face of world opinion we cannot persist in our unhelpful and passive attitude, when we can clearly see what is going to happen. Even at this late hour some such gesture may prove helpful and at least blunt the sharpness of the attack on our attitude which is almost certain to come".

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) LEIF EGGLAND

The Rt. Hon. P.J. Noel-Baker,
Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations,
The Commonwealth Relations Office, S.W.1.

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Id.

12/3

N. Dea Watson

Yaffee
Y.B.

~~Mr. Burrows.~~

✓ The Private Secretaries wish to put this in the Secretary of State's box to-night. The draft seems to be satisfactory.

H. J. Beale 127
13

Bill Funtrow

72.3

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MESS. FOR
PRIME MINISTER
TO SEND TO
FIELD MARSHAL
SMUTS.

Draft
TOP SECRET.

151

Thank you for your message about Palestine. I can assure you that my colleagues and I share your anxious apprehension for the future of that country. The prospects are dark indeed and we feel it deeply that the record of our efforts and sacrifices through all these years should come to such an end. But the decision to leave was one which, for reasons we have explained, we found ourselves compelled to take. After our efforts to find a settlement and to bring Jews and Arabs together in the hope that they would realise the grave situation that failure to agree might create, and after our ample warnings to the United Nations and particularly to the United States, we do not feel that the darkening situation in Palestine springs primarily from British policy. For the past few years there has been no co-operation at all between the two communities in Palestine and the Administration, in spite of all our efforts to obtain it.

Nor have we sat back and simply washed our hands in innocence of the whole affair. We have done everything possible to help the United Nations in their work at every phase, short of implementation of the partition plan; and in Palestine itself we have done all we can to preserve the fabric of local life and the ordinary administrative services (including Police arrangements) in anticipation of the termination of the Mandate. But we ourselves cannot now prevent the consequences of the approval which the United Nations gave to the plan adopted by the Assembly.

You make two points. We have examined the possibility of leaving a force in Jerusalem to protect the Holy Places, pending the effective establishment of the international regime,

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regime, but have decided with regret that we cannot do so. At the moment a large force of British police, supported by more than a brigade of troops, is hard put to it to maintain a precarious order in the City. On the termination of the Mandate our troops will be confined to a steadily contracting zone in the North, which does not include Jerusalem, and they will limit their action to that necessary to safeguard the successful evacuation of themselves and their stores. In these circumstances any British force left in Jerusalem would be a hostage in support of which we should be likely to find ourselves heavily involved in civil war. Even to keep communications open would require considerable numbers of men and would be an impossible distraction of our forces from their main task of completing their own withdrawal. Public opinion here is insistent that British troops should not be left under fire in Palestine a day longer than is essential for this.

What we can do, we are doing. We are working to obtain the agreement of the principal communities in Jerusalem to observe a truce. We are forming a municipal police force of equal numbers of Jews and Arabs to leave behind on our withdrawal. We have (hitherto without success) urged the Trusteeship Council to appoint a Governor for Jerusalem without delay who may recruit the special police force provided for by the Assembly Plan. We will not place any obstacle in the way of members of the British section of the Palestine Police Force who may wish to volunteer for such service. We have emphasised, both on the Security Council and to the Palestine Commission, the importance

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importance of early action in anticipation of the withdrawal of our civil administration.

On the second point you raise, progress has been made. We have given power to the High Commissioner to devolve to municipalities some of the functions at present exercised by the Central Government. He is preparing legislation enabling these municipalities to collect revenue required to run the essential services. The Jews have been permitted to organise a civil guard force for the all-Jewish area of Tel Aviv, and its environs. The existence of the Hagana, well organised and equipped, is sufficient warrant that the Jews will not lack all means of self-protection on our departure. As for the Arabs, we are helping them to organise municipal police forces in 18 towns and are assisting in the establishment of rural Arab police forces. These forces will be available to protect the localities in which they serve after our departure.

I must repeat that our attitude has not been "unhelpful and passive". I hope that the spate of propaganda which has consistently misrepresented this very difficult problem to the world will not be accepted, but will be understood as neither just to Britain nor in any way representing the true facts of our policy.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13th March, 1948.

TOP SECRET.

IMMEDIATE.

I am writing with reference to your letter to Henniker of the 12th March to let you know that the Foreign Secretary agrees with the Colonial Secretary's proposed draft reply to Field Marshal Smuts about Palestine.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Wood at the Ministry of Defence and to East at the Commonwealth Relations Office.

(Sd) F.K. ROBERTS

N.D. Watson, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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With the compliments of
Mr. J.B. Hunt.

15th March, 1948.

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15th March, 1948.

Dear Watson,

Thank you for your letter to East of the 12th March, enclosing the draft reply to the message the Prime Minister received from Field Marshal Smuts about our policy in Palestine.

In the Secretary of State's absence abroad the draft has been seen by Mr. Gordon-Walker, who is in general agreement with it. He would, however, prefer the following sentence in place of the last paragraph in the draft:--

"I fear that, whatever we do in this unhappy affair, we are bound to be criticized by one side or the other, but I feel sure that, in the light of what I have said, you at any rate will not regard our attitude as unhelpful."

I am sending copies of this letter to Henniker and Richard Wood.

Yours sincerely,

(Spd.) J.B. Hunt.

Private Secretary.

N. D. Watson, Esq.

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E 3546 ^{p.w.} 156

Eastern Dept.

CMCA.

17/iii.

With the Compliments of the Private
Secretary to the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Practically identical with the previous draft.
I have underlined the few changes introduced.

*Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street, S.W.1*

17th March, 1948.

[illegible]

157
TOP SECRET

17th March, 1948.

IMMEDIATE

You sent me with your letter of the 9th March a copy of a message from Field Marshal Smuts to the Prime Minister about Palestine. I now enclose the draft of a reply which my Secretary of State suggests that the Prime Minister might send.

The draft has been agreed by the Foreign Secretary and incorporates amendments proposed by the Minister of Defence and the Under Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations.

I am sending a copy of this letter, with the amended draft, to Roberts at the Foreign Office, Wood at the Ministry of Defence and Hunt at the Commonwealth Relations Office.

(sgd.) N.D. WATSON.

J. L. Pumphrey, Esq.

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MESSAGE FOR
PRIME MINISTER
TO SEND TO
FIELD MARSHAL
SMUTS.

TOP SECRET

Thank you for your message about Palestine. I can assure you that my colleagues and I share your anxious apprehension for the future of that country. The prospects are dark indeed and we feel it deeply that the record of our efforts and sacrifices through all these years should come to such an end. But the decision to leave was one which, for reasons we have explained, we found ourselves compelled to take. After our efforts to find a settlement and to bring Jews and Arabs together in the hope that they would realise the grave situation that failure to agree might create, and after our ample warnings to the United Nations and particularly to the United States, we do not feel that the darkening situation in Palestine springs primarily from British policy. For the past few years there has been no co-operation at all of the two communities in Palestine with the Administration, in spite of all our efforts to obtain it.

Nor have we sat back and simply washed our hands in innocence of the whole affair. We have done everything possible to help the United Nations in their work at every phase, short of implementation of the partition plan; and in Palestine itself we have done all we can to preserve the fabric of local life and the ordinary administrative services (including police arrangements) so that there might be a "going concern" for any successor administration to take over on the termination of the Mandate. But we ourselves cannot now prevent the consequences of the approval which the

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United Nations gave to the plan adopted by the Assembly.

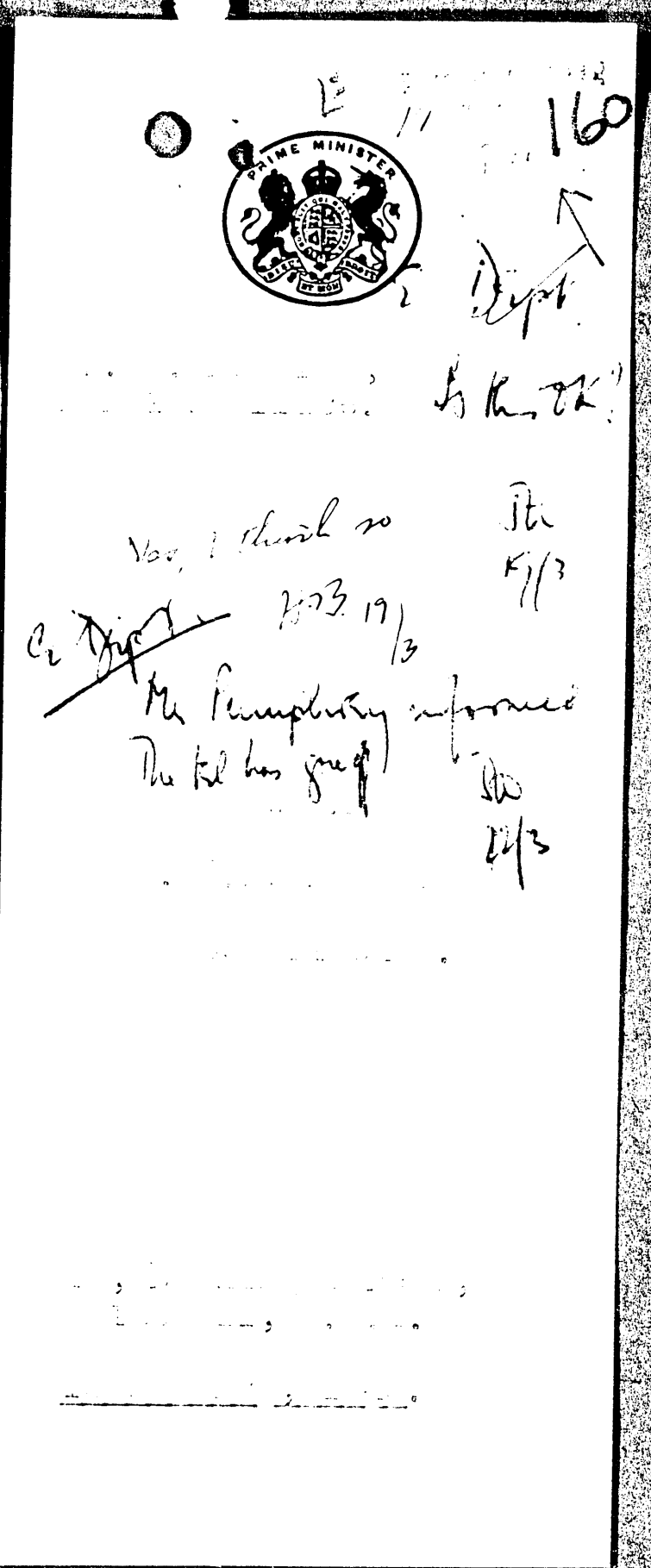
You make two points. We have examined the possibility of leaving a force in Jerusalem to protect the Holy Places, pending the effective establishment of the international regime, but have decided with regret that we cannot do so. At the moment a large force of British police, supported by more than a brigade of troops, is hard put to it to maintain a precarious order in the City. On the termination of the Mandate our troops will be confined to a steadily contracting zone in the North, which does not include Jerusalem, and they will limit their action to that necessary to safeguard the successful evacuation of themselves and their stores. In these circumstances any British force left in Jerusalem would be a hostage in the support and maintenance of which we should be likely to find ourselves heavily involved in conditions bordering upon civil war. Even to keep communications open would require considerable numbers of men and would be an impossible distraction of our forces from their main task of completing their own withdrawal. Public opinion here is insistent that British troops should not be left under fire in Palestine a day longer than is essential for this.

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I fear that,, whatever we do in this unhappy affair, we are bound to be criticized by one side or the other. but I feel sure that, in the light of what I have said, you at any rate will not regard our attitude as unhelpful.

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160

PRIME MINISTER

Sept

Is the OK?

Yes, I think so

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~~Mr. Dyer~~

Mr. Humphrey informed

The kel has given

He

24/3

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P. W. 161

F 3576/4

18th March, 1948.

Thank you for your letter of 17th March,
enclosing a draft reply to Field Marshal Smuts'
message to the Prime Minister about Palestine.

The Prime Minister has made one or two amendments in the draft. These are intended to be amendments of form and not of substance, but he would like the Department concerned to check through the enclosed draft and ensure that no unintended and unaccountable changes in substance have been made. If it is all right, perhaps you would let Hunt at the Commonwealth Relations Office know and he will no doubt have it despatched in the form of a telegram to our High Commissioner in South Africa.

I am sending a copy of this letter and
enclosure to Hunt, Roberts and Richard Wood.

(SGD) J. L. PUMPHREY.

D. J. Watson, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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As for the first of your two particular points, we have examined the possibilities of leaving a force in Jerusalem to protect the Holy Places until the international regime is effectively established, but have decided with regret that we cannot do this. At the moment a large force of British Police, supported by more than a brigade of troops, is hard put to it to maintain a precarious order in the City. On the termination of the mandate our troops will be confined to a steadily contracting zone in the north (not including Jerusalem), and they will limit their action to what is necessary to ensure the successful evacuation of themselves and their stores. In these circumstances any British force left in Jerusalem would be isolated, and to support and maintain it in conditions which might approach those of civil war would be likely to prove a heavy commitment. We should require a considerable number of men to keep communications open with it, and we could not

distract....

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On your second point, progress has been made. We have given power to the High Commissioner to devolve to municipalities some of the functions at present exercised by the Central Government. He is preparing legislation enabling these municipalities to collect the revenue required to run the essential services. The Jews have been permitted to organise a Civil...

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I fear that, whatever we do in this unhappy affair, we are bound to be criticised by one side or the other, but I feel sure that, in the light of what I have said, you at any rate will not regard our attitude as unhelpful.

18th March, 1948.

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1948

E

PALESTINE

E 3577

1166

17 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3577/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. United Kingdom
Delegation

Dated New York.

Received in Registry 900
16th Mar
17th "Security Council Meetings.

Refers New York tel No 889 (E3499/4/31)

Afternoon session was opened by (Chamoun) who made a long speech discussing general arguments against implementation of Assembly's resolution on familiar lines.

Syrian delegate made brief statement on behalf of Arab states.

Chairman (Tsiang) reported that Four-power consultations were not completed and after some discussion consideration of Palestine was postponed until Friday morning.

Last Paper.

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References.

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(Action
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(Index.)

Next Paper.

3580

(Minutes.)

J. Dalpin

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WORLD ORGANIZATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 900

16th March, 1948

D. 7.25 p.m. 16th March, 1948

R. 1.55 a.m. 17th March, 1948

Repeated to Jerusalem
Washington (Saving)

IMPORTANT
GLINT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 900 March 16th repeated for information to Jerusalem and Saving to Washington.

My telegram No. 889: Palestine.

Security Council this afternoon opened with long speech by Lebanese delegate (Chamoun) discussing general arguments against implementation of Assembly's resolution on familiar lines, and emphasising that difficulties of implementation arose principally from the fact that considerations of morality and justice had been ignored in framing it. Many countries, e.g., United States and Canada had minority problems, solution of which had always been found rather by integrating minority as a constituent part of the state than by permitting it to break away and thus become a menace to the state. In case of Palestine, minority were not even citizens, and Jewish immigration meant entry of every kind of group and nationality. Members of Council should put themselves in the place of the Arabs and see whether they would not react in some way.

2. During analysis following customary Arab line of legal position of Security Council in regard to implementation, he stressed Arab view that on 15th May Palestine would automatically become a sovereign state. First part of speech concluded with reference to action taken by the Council as regards Greece and Korea, in which resolutions of the General Assembly had not been put into effect.

3. Second part was addressed primarily to United States representative and public, principally on theme that United States should not permit itself to be misled by Zionist propaganda into throwing away friendship and cooperation of Arab world now so important in the anti-Communist front. Introduction of Communists among Jewish illegal immigrants was a danger signal in present world situation. Prestige of United Nations depended more on spirit and justice of its recommendations rather than way in which they were implemented. Security Council should contribute towards repairing fundamental error made by General Assembly rather than persist in aggravating it. United States press and politicians should stop playing with fire for sake of local interests. Arabs for their part were anxious to maintain century old friendship.

/4. Syrian delegate

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Telegram from New York (U.K.Del.) No. 900 to Foreign Office 168

- 2 -

4. Syrian delegate (Faris Bey) made a brief statement on behalf of Arab states covering following points:

(i) Present disturbances in Palestine were local skirmishes only. Comparatively few Arabs had infiltrated compared with numbers of Jews entering with their arms as illegal immigrants.

(ii) Arab states, including Syria, will favour any solution in conformity with principles of democracy and of Charter.

(iii) Arab states including Syria, will not interfere in present or future fighting in Palestine so long as no other foreign forces intervene.

5. Chairman (Tsiang) reported that Four-Power consultations were not completed and after some discussion consideration of Palestine was postponed until Friday morning.

Foreign Office please pass Jerusalem as my telegram No. 220.

[Copy sent to Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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E 3624

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1948

PALESTINE

18 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3624/4/31
TELEGRAM FROM
United Kingdom
No Delegation
NEW YORK
SECRET 905
Received in Registry 17th Mar
18th "

Palestine Citrus Packing Materials.

Refers Colonial Office telegram to New York No 95 Brief,
Commission have made it clear that they will not entertain for one moment a proposal that they should accept liability for financing purchase of Citrus Packing materials for simple reason that they are aware of no source from which funds could be obtained. Therefore in these circumstances a formal approach to the Commission, would be a mere waste of time.

Last Paper.

3580

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, M. Kusan, CO
Herman Boloff
Lester. M.I.S.
M.I.S.
M104
Adams
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(Action completed.) (Index.)

pp
G. W. 1/4 3/12/48

Next Paper.

3628

(Minutes)

ER. Sept.

JB Mar. 18

What happens now? Do we
leave this? I doubt if there are
any grounds for us picking up
the money.

K. Pridham
18/3

Mr., Co. & Mr. Food will
have to decide & consult us.

Bu. Apr. 4

JB Mar. 22

Co. have now replied. ~~Human~~
~~unsubstantiated~~ JB Apr. 5

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18 MAR 1948

DISPATCHED DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

(From U.K. Delegation to United Nations).

D. 6.52 p.m. 17th March, 1948.

No. 905.

17th March, 1946.

R. 12.00 a.m. 10th March, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem and saving to Washington.

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Addressed to F.O. for Colonial office telegram No. 909 of 17th March, repeated for information to Jerusalem and Saving to Washington.

Following for Gutch from Fletcher-Cooke.

[Begins].

Your telegram brief No. 30 in which was contained text of your telegram to Jerusalem No. 301 - Palestine citrus packing materials.

I have consulted Commission's staff unofficially, in this matter and they have confirmed my views, which are as follows:-

(1) Commission have not (repeat not) and are not (repeat not) likely to have access to any funds other than the assets of the government of Palestine (except for the small vote for their own administrative expenses from the United Nations) (11) if the Commission were willing to continue the present practice whereby the financing of the purchase of these packing materials is undertaken by advances from public funds, they could only do so if such funds were likely to be available among the assets of government of Palestine.

(111) Owing to present financial position in Palestine and large deficit which will exist on termination of mandate, it is clear that there will be no (repeat no) public funds available in Palestine for this purpose.

(IV) In any case Commission are much more concerned with financing of imports of essential foodstuffs (my telegrams Nos. 794, 795 and 81 refer) and consider that any funds which might become available should be used for this purpose.

2. Commission's staff have, therefore, assured me that Commission would not (repeat not) entertain for one moment a proposal that they should accept liability for financing purchase of these packing materials for simple reason that they are aware of no (repeat no) source from which funds could be obtained.

/s. In these

A circular postmark from London, dated 18 MAR 1948. The text "LONDON" is at the top, "18 MAR 1948" is at the bottom, and "XXII" is in the center.

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NY New York tel. telegram No. 905 to F.O.

-2-

3. In these circumstances a formal approach to Commission would, in my view, be a mere waste of time.

[Ends].

Please repeat to Jerusalem immediate as my telegram No. 22-.

[Copy sent to Colonial Office and to Telegraph Section
Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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297

1948

E

PALESTINE

E 3628

18 MAR 1948

171

Registry Number E3628/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

United Kingdom
No. Delegation.
NEW YORK.

Dated 906

Top Secret
in Registry

17th Mar
18th "

Permanent Members Committee.

Refers New York telegram No, 882 (E3431/4/31) of 12th
Sir, A. Cadogan agreed to attend a meeting of the
United States, French and Chinese delegates only
to furnish information.
Meeting had under consideration a draft report
to the Security Council, gives text of concluding
passage. Senator Austin outlined further ideas of
his Government, and asked for an early reply as to
whether H.M.G. would be prepared to support his
proposals.

Last Paper.

7624

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Wathman - b.O
Herman Bal M
Scherr M11
M13a
M104
Admiral
A.C.
Mar 19

D.T.O.

(Action completed.)

9/10/23/5

(Index)

3/2/44

Next Paper.

7629

(Minutes.)

Please see separate minutes J. Balfour
18/3
Draft to New York
sent

G.P.P. M.M. Aclit to M. Benin Mar 19.

J.B.
1/4

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Rel. New York. 1215
Mar. 19.

Rptd. W. Ton 2143
B.M.E.O. 274

S. D. Abene.
Mar 22.

Rel. W. Ton 3113
Rptd. U.K. rel. 1203
Mar 18

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Minutes.

PALESTINE.

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New York telegrams No.906 to 909 record an important development in the situation at Lake Success. It appears that the United States Government, carrying with them the French and Chinese, have decided that the Partition Plan cannot be implemented, and that the Security Council should:

- (i) Take immediate steps to prevent an outbreak of war in Palestine on the 15th May;
- (ii) Ask the Assembly to approve a temporary trusteeship for Palestine.

They have accordingly prepared a draft report which they intend to submit to the Security Council on the morning of the 19th March. The specific proposals in this draft are:-

- (i) That the Security Council should make it clear to the Parties concerned that they are determined not to permit the situation in Palestine to threaten international peace.
- (ii) That the Security Council should take action to bring about effective truce in Palestine.
- (iii) That they should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of an agreement placing Palestine under the temporary trusteeship of the United Nations, with the specific object of providing a further opportunity for "agreement between the interested Parties regarding the future Government of Palestine."
- (iv) That they should request the Secretary General to convene a Special Session of the General Assembly.
- (v) That they should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its efforts to implement the proposed Partition Plan.

According to New York telegram no.908, the above draft has been approved by four Delegations. It seems almost certain that this is an error, and that the Russians have not in fact concurred in these proposals. Senator Austin is reported, in paragraph 4 of telegram No.906, as saying that the Soviet Union would certainly not agree. In fact it seems highly probable that Mr. Gromyko will veto the proposals outlined above.

A Soviet veto would, however, be limited in its effect. It would certainly prevent the Security Council from taking immediate steps to organise a truce, and would weaken the threat of enforcement action if the will of the United Nations was not respected by the Parties directly concerned. It would also prevent

the/...

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Minutes.

the Security Council from requesting a Special Session of the General Assembly, but it would still be open to the sponsors of the proposal to ask the Secretary General to obtain the consent of the majority of a number of member States to the summoning of a Special Session. Nor would it prevent the drafting of a Trusteeship Agreement for submission to the Assembly at this Special Session. The Palestine Commission would be left in the air as a result of a Soviet veto, but would probably conclude that it could not continue to perform its task.

In these circumstances it would be left to the Assembly, preferably before it embarked on discussion of a trusteeship agreement, to endeavour to make arrangements for a truce.

There are certain obvious difficulties in the way of concluding any trusteeship agreement for Palestine:

- (a) It is required by Article 79 of the Charter that terms of trusteeship ~~should~~ ~~could be~~ be agreed upon by the States concerned. The meaning of the phrase "States directly concerned" has never yet been defined, but there can be no doubt that the Arab States or at least some of them will claim to be covered by this phrase in the case of Palestine, and will, therefore, contend that their concurrence in its terms is an essential condition of any Trusteeship Agreement.
- (b) During the period of Trusteeship there must be either Jewish migration or a prohibition on Jewish migration, and provisions on this subject must be included in the Agreement. There is no possible provision on this subject which would not be regarded by one side or the other as a departure from the status quo and consequently as tending to prejudice the character of the final settlement. (It is also worth noting that Article 76 of the Charter which defines the basic objectives of the trusteeship system, declares that one of these is to promote the "advancement of the inhabitants of the trust territories and their progressive development towards Self-Government or Independence." The Arabs will argue that any provision for Jewish migration would be incompatible with this section of Article 76).

Agreement on a form of trusteeship would not of itself solve the problem of maintaining order in Palestine after the 15th May. It appears from New York telegram No.909 that the Americans are relying on policing by local Arab and Jewish forces, or in other words that they are relying on the efficacy of the proposed truce. They have also mentioned the possibility of discussions among the permanent members on the provision of an additional force from outside Palestine, but

they/...

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Minutes.

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they cannot have much hope that this would materialise. So far as we are concerned, we should probably have to turn down the suggestion that our plans of withdrawal might be modified in order to facilitate the arrival of an International Force.

It cannot be said that at first sight the proposals offer much ground for hope of a peaceful settlement. ~~Then~~ and acceptance by the Zionists would involve the latter in recognising the abandonment of the Partition Plan. From the Arab point of view, and ~~the~~ objections of almost equal seriousness is that there will be no practical means of preventing Jewish ~~immigration~~ after the 15th May. Even (the ~~g~~) leaders of the Jewish Agency and the Arab Governments were ready to accept the proposals in spite of these objections, it seems very doubtful whether they could now bring under control the irregular forces operating in Palestine. Nevertheless, it would be a great step forward if the Security Council were to endorse the ~~security~~ proposals contained in these telegrams; it would mean the end of the impracticable and dangerous Partition Plan, and acceptance by the Security Council of the view that the acquiescence of both Communities in Palestine is a necessary foundation for a stable settlement in that country.

Immediate action is required on para.5 of New York telegram No.906.

I attach a draft.

H. Beeley
(H. BEELEY)
18th March, 1948.

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Arsho 1948

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET) DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

D. 7.53 p.m. 17th March, 1948.

R. 3.20 a.m. 18th March, 1948

Repeated to Jerusalem,
Washington,
B.M.E.O.Cairo.

IMMEDIATE
TOP SECRET
LIGHT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.906 of 17th March, repeated for information to Jerusalem, Washington and B.M.E.O.Cairo.

My telegram No.882.

Palestine.

Senator Austin invited me to attend a meeting of the United States, French and Chinese representatives this morning. Subject to my usual reservation that I could not take part in discussion but would furnish any information desired, I agreed to attend.

2. Meeting had under consideration a draft report to the Security Council concluding with a passage to the following effect.

[Begins].

The permanent members report that an aggravation of the situation in Palestine through continued infiltration of hostile elements from outside (whose purpose is to prevent by force the implementation of the Assembly resolution) would constitute a threat to international peace. Permanent members accordingly recommend:

a) That Security Council should make it clear to the parties and governments concerned that it is determined not to permit the situation in Palestine to threaten international peace and

b) That the Council should take further action by all means available to it to bring about an effective truce in Palestine at the earliest possible moment. [Ends].

3. Bracketed words/....

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3. Bracketed words in foregoing text were omitted at request of Chinese representative owing to their anti-Arab slant. He also suggested that words "by land and sea" should be added after "infiltration". Draft is being revised today by the three delegations and I will telegraph text as soon as it is available.

4. Senator Austin then outlined in strict secrecy further ideas of his government which he said were motivated by their extreme anxiety for peace and on which he hoped for concurrence of as many as possible of permanent members of the Council other than Soviet Union, which would certainly not agree. Proposal is that Security Council should declare:

(I) That Assembly plan must be regarded as an integral whole and that it is clear that agreement for its peaceful implementation cannot be reached by the Jews, the Arabs and the Mandatory Power;

(II) That the Council is not (repeat not) prepared to implement the plan in the existing situation;

(III) That if the Mandatory Power carries out its intention to terminate the mandate on May 15th, result will be a chaotic situation which must be avoided in the interests of international peace;

(IV) That the Council must do all it can to bring about a cessation of hostilities within Palestine and a halt to incursions, using if necessary all its powers under Articles 39 to 42 of the Charter;

(V) That the Council recommends a temporary trusteeship for Palestine, to be operated by a governing body under the orders of the Trusteeship Council, to keep the peace and give Jews and Arabs a further opportunity of agreeing upon the future government of their country. Trusteeship plan would be recommended by Council to Assembly and Mandatory Power and a special assembly would be called at once to approve terms of trusteeship;

(VI) Meanwhile Palestine Commission should suspend its efforts to implement assembly plan.

5. Austin asked me to enquire whether His Majesty's Government would be prepared to support above proposals and to assist in drafting terms of trusteeship in which as mandatory they would have to concur. He emphasised that in the present state of the world it was vital to take every action that might avert a disturbance of the peace and he pointed out that with this in mind United States Government were now prepared for a very considerable departure from their former attitude, and he appealed for all possible support. I warned him/....

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8

Registry
No. E

Top Secret.
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Draft.

Washington

Telegram.

No. 3113

(Date) March 8

Repeat to:-

UK Del. New York
1203

~~In Clair.~~

~~Code.~~

Cypher.

Distribution:-

Dept. L.

H. Bealey 19/3

Copies to:-

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F.D. 194

Importance

Top Secret

Despatched 1 A M.

Addressed to Washington, telegram
no. 3113 of 18/3, repeated for
information to UK Del. New York.

Palestine

We learn that WEIZMANN
intended to see MARSHALL on the 17th,
in order to express ^{his belief} ~~the fact~~ that the
implementation of partition would be
disastrous for the Jewish community in
Palestine, and to press for a period
of United Nations trusteeship.

2. This information was given to
us privately by a source who should
on no account be compromised.

MTL
18.3

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3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 946 (S1) F&S.

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on] 178
Cypher/OTP

E
Top Secret

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOR IGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON
No. 3113
18th March, 1948. D. 1.55 a.m. 19th March, 1948.
Repeated to New York U.K.Del. No. 1203

IMPORTANT
TOP SECRET

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 3113 of 18th March repeated for information to U.K.Del. New York.

Palestine.

We learn that Weizmann intended to see Marshall on the 17th, in order to express his belief that the implementation of partition would be disastrous for the Jewish community in Palestine, and to press for a period of United Nations trusteeship.

2. This information was given to us privately by a source who should on no account be compromised.

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Top Secret
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Despatched 1 194 M.

Draft.

U.K. Delegation,
New York

Telegram.

No. 1215

(Date) MARCH 19

Repeat to:-

Washington. 3143

B.M.E.O. 234

Jerusalem

~~EXCLUDED~~

~~EXCLUDED~~

Cypher.

Distribution:-

Dp. (Secret)

Approved by
Minister of State
Copies to:-

H. Beeley 19/3

110 pm

MOST IMMEDIATE.

TOP SECRET.

Addressed to U.K. Delegation, New
York, No. 1215 of March 19th.

Repeated for information to Washington,
B.M.E.O. and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 906 of 17th March:
Palestine, paragraph 5.

We cannot, without deviating from our
attitude of neutrality towards the partition
plan, support (or oppose) proposals which
amount in fact to a substitute for that plan.

You may, however, privately inform those
delegations with which you are on terms
of confidence that, while unable in view
of their consistent policy of impartiality
to comment on the details of the draft
resolution, H.M.G. have always made it clear
that they would welcome any effort to arrive
at a settlement by agreement between Arabs
and Jews and consequently view with sympathy
the/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F&S.

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the present move towards this end.

2. With regard to Austin's second question, it would be in accordance with our previous attitude throughout the discussion of Palestine by the United Nations to place our knowledge and experience at the disposal of whoever was charged with drafting a trusteeship agreement. We could not, however, take any responsibility for the drafting. For your own information, we are giving further consideration to the implications of Article 79 of the Charter. It is most unlikely that we should wish to obstruct the adoption of a trusteeship agreement which commanded general approval.

14.8. 1945.

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Cypher/OTP
E 3628/4/31
Secret

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET) DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK
(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)
No. 1215 D. 1.50 p.m. 19th March, 1948
19th March, 1948

Repeated to Washington No. 3143
B.M.E.O. Cairo No. 234
Jerusalem

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Addressed to United Kingdom delegation New York
No. 1215 of 19th March repeated for information to
Washington, B.M.E.O. Cairo and Jerusalem.

Your telegram No. 906 [of 17th March: Palestine]
paragraph 5.

We cannot, without deviating from our attitude of neutrality towards the partition plan, support (or oppose) proposals which amount in fact to a substitute for that plan. You may, however, privately inform those delegations with which you are on terms of confidence that, while unable in view of their consistent policy of impartiality to comment on the details of the draft resolution, His Majesty's Government have always made it clear that they would welcome any effort to arrive at a settlement by agreement between Arabs and Jews and consequently view with sympathy the present move towards this end.

2. With regard to Austin's second question, it would be in accordance with our previous attitude throughout the discussion of Palestine by the United Nations to place our knowledge and experience at the disposal of whoever was charged with drafting a trusteeship agreement. We could not, however, take any responsibility for the drafting. For your own information, we are giving further consideration to the implications of Article 79 of the Charter. It is most unlikely that we should wish to obstruct the adoption of a trusteeship agreement which commanded general approval.

[Copy sent to M.E. Secretariat]

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SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL

to New Ensl:

I had to take a quick decision on this telegram, since not only have we ^{been} telegraphed from New York but Saliman came round this morning to leave a copy of ~~the~~ report and to plead on behalf of his Government that we should instruct our representative to make the most sympathetic statement possible.

I agreed, however, in collaboration with Harold Beeley and Michael Wright, that this was the maximum to which we should go, at any rate at present. I cleared it with the Prime Minister and of course the Colonial Office were instructed. I hope you agree that I did properly. I thought, nevertheless, that you would want as quickly as possible to know about it.

Handwritten signature
Hedoi

Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.
U.K. Delegation,
Paris.

Handwritten notes:
Discovered with 181 p.w. entered
Sof's today 20/3 March 19/4 1948
Foreign Office, S.W.I. Tel.

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PALESTINE

Registry Number } E3629/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM
United Kingdom
Delegation

No. NEW YORK

Top Secret. 908

Dated

Received } 17th Mar
in Registry } 18th "

Permanent Members Committee.

Refers New York telegram No, 906 (3628/4/31) para 3 of March 17th.

Transmits text of draft report to Security Council as revised by Four delegations afternoon of March 17th.

Last Paper.

3628

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

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Apr 18

(Action completed.)

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Next Paper.

3631

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18 MAR 1948
should be returned

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET) DISTRIBUTION

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

D: 8.53 p.m. 17th March, 1948.

R: 4.15 a.m. 18th March, 1948.

Repeated to: Jerusalem,
Washington,
B.M.E.O. Cairo.

LIGHT

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 908, March 17th
repeated for information to Jerusalem, Washington and B.M.E.O.
Cairo.

My telegram No. 906 paragraph 3.

Palestine.

Following is text of draft report to Security Council as revised by four delegations this afternoon.

[Begins]

The consultations among the permanent members of the Security Council and informal communication with the Palestine Commission, the Mandatory Power, the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee held since March 5th, 1948 have developed the following conclusions regarding the situation with respect to Palestine:

1. The Jewish Agency accepts the partition plan, considers it to be the irreducible minimum acceptable to the Jews, and insists upon the implementation of the plan without substantial modification.

2. The Arab Higher Committee rejects any solution based on partition in any form and considers that the only solution acceptable to the Arabs of Palestine is the formation of one independent state for the whole of Palestine whose constitution would be based on democratic principles and which would include adequate safeguards for minorities and the safety of the holy places.

3. No modifications in the essentials of the partition plan are acceptable to the Jewish Agency and no modifications would

/make the plan

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New York telegram No.908 to Foreign Office

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make the plan acceptable to the Arab Higher Committee.

4. The Palestine Commission, the Mandatory Power, the Jewish Agency and the Arab Higher Committee have indicated that the partition plan cannot be implemented by peaceful means under present conditions.

5. The plan proposed by the General Assembly is an integral plan which cannot succeed unless each of its parts can be carried out. There seems to be general agreement that the plan cannot now be implemented by peaceful means. This being so, the Security Council is not in a position to go ahead with efforts to implement this plan in the existing situation.

6. The Mandatory Power has confirmed that a considerable number of illegal arms and hostile elements have entered Palestine both by land and by sea since November 29th 1947.

7. Gradual withdrawal of the military forces of the Mandatory Power will, in the absence of agreement, result in increasing violence and disorder in Palestine. Warfare of a guerrilla type grows more violent constantly.

8. If the mandate is terminated prior to a peaceful solution of the problem, large-scale fighting between the two communities can be expected.

9. As a result of their consultations regarding the situation with respect to Palestine, the permanent members find and report that an aggravation of the situation in Palestine through a continuation of the infiltration of hostile elements into Palestine by land and by sea would constitute a threat to international peace, and recommend

- (a) that the Security Council should make it clear to the parties and Governments concerned that the Security Council is determined not to permit the situation in Palestine to threaten international peace and
- (b) that the Security Council should take further action by all means available to it to bring about an effective truce in that country at the earliest practicable moment.

10. Under the Charter the Security Council has both an inescapable responsibility as well as full authority to take the steps necessary to bring about a cease fire in Palestine and a halt to the incursions being made into that country. The powers of Articles 39, 40, 41 and 42 are very great and the Council should not hesitate to use them if necessary to stop the fighting.

11. In addition, we believe that further steps must be taken immediately not only to maintain the peace but also to afford

/a further opportunity

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New York telegram No. 908 to Foreign Office

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a further opportunity to reach an agreement between the interested parties regarding the future government of Palestine. To this end we believe that a temporary trusteeship for Palestine should be established under the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. Such a United Nations trusteeship would be without prejudice to the rights, claims or position of the parties concerned or to the character of the eventual political settlement, which we hope can be achieved without long delay. In our opinion, the Security Council should recommend the establishment of such a trusteeship to the General Assembly and to the Mandatory Power. This would require an immediate special session of the General Assembly, which the Security Council should request the Secretary General to convene under Article 20 of the Charter.

12. Pending the meeting of the proposed special session of the General Assembly, we believe that the Security Council should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its efforts to implement the proposed partition plan. [Ends]

See my immediately following telegram.

Please repeat Important to Jerusalem and B.M.E.O. Cairo as my telegrams Nos. 227 and 14 respectively.

[Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo and copy sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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E 3631

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1948

PALESTINE

18 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3631/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

United Kingdom

No. Delegation

NEW YORK

Top Secret

909

Received 17th March
in Registry 18th "United States, Trusteeship Proposal.Refers New York telegram No, 908 (E3629/4/31)
of March 17th,Transmits list of points made by Rusk in the course
of discussion on the draft of the Permanent Members
report to the Security Council.Points all concern the proposal by the United States
delegate of a Trusteeship for Palestine to come
into effect on May the 15th.

Last Paper.

3629

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. Walker on 10
Sherman / Bob 10/11
Tobert / 11/15
11/17a
11/14
Adams
✓ 11/18
Mar 18

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

P. L. 11/22/3

11/3/17/18

Next Paper.

3632

(Minutes.)

See E 3628

J. Balfour 18/3

H.B. 18/3

See within: C.O. tel. to Palestine 1156 of 25/3

Palestine tel. 787 of 28/3

Action on the above was taken before ending.

P.B. 15/4

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Cypher/CTP

18 MAR 1948
DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)
DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE
(From United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 909

D. 9.16 pm. 17th March, 1948.
R. 3.50 am. 18th March, 1948.

17th March, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem
Washington
B.M.E.O. Cairo

IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

LIGHT

Addressed Foreign Office telegram No. 909 of 17th March, repeated for information to Jerusalem, Washington and British Middle East Office Cairo.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Palestine.

In the course of discussion of the draft, Rusk made following points:

(A) The Trusteeship United States Delegation had in mind would be of a purely temporary character to hold the situation while a permanent solution was worked out. It would ask neither Jews, Arabs nor Mandatory Power to depart from the position they had already adopted as regards the Palestine problem. Trusteeship is proposed as a means of enabling the United Nations to take over authority when the Mandate ends. It would last for as short a period as possible.

(B) As regards security after May 15th, under proposed Trusteeship danger of disorders should be considerably less. Local policing could be carried out by Jewish and Arab police in their own areas. It would be for the permanent members to discuss the provision of an additional force to back the Trusteeship Government. United Kingdom co-operation was essential, and though it was realised that May 15th must be adhered to, "phasing out of British forces might follow a different plan to allow for phasing in" of Trusteeship Government. Proposed Trusteeship represented last chance of preventing open warfare in Palestine after May 15th.

/ (C) First step in

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FO 371 / 68538

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New York telegram No.909 to U.C.

- 2 -

(C) First step in planning security force under Trusteeship arrangements would be to ask Mandatory Power for an estimate of the security problem under proposed Trusteeship. It might be assumed that United States would make a considerable effort to counter Jewish dissident groups.

(D) When French delegate suggested that removal of Cyprus Jews would exacerbate Arab feeling, Rusk said that regulation of immigration would be one of principal features of proposed trusteeship agreement. It would be necessary to discuss to what extent principles of mandate would have to be taken over into proposed Trusteeship agreement.

2. Rusk mentioned that during a conversation, Arab Higher Committee representative, Nakhleh, had agreed to a truce on condition that implementation of partition was suspended and Jews and Arabs asked to negotiate a settlement.

Please repeat important to Jerusalem and B.M.E.O. Cairo as my telegrams Nos. 228 and 15 respectively.

[Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo and copy sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

k k k

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM.

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

78872/153/48

Cypher (O.T.P.)

1621 4 31

1 APR 1948

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 25th March, 1948. 18.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

INDEXED

No.1156 Top Secret.

Addressed High Commissioner Palestine.
Repeated UKDEL, New York.

You will have seen from New York telegram to Foreign Office No.809, repeated to you, that in outlining their trusteeship proposals the United States Delegation has indicated that the first step in planning a security force would be to ask the Mandatory Power for an estimate of the security problems. State Department have now requested our Embassy in Washington to obtain from H.M.G. such an estimate. In conformity with our policy of providing all information possible, we have agreed to furnish an appreciation, the preparation of which is being undertaken by the Chiefs of Staff. The political assumptions on which this appreciation is to be based have been drawn up in the light of your telegram No.713, and are briefly:

- (a) any trusteeship proposal without the political objective of establishing a Jewish State would be resisted by the Jews who would take unilateral action to set up their own government;
- (b) the Arabs would be determined to resist by force the establishment of a Jewish State;
- (c) United Nations forces would therefore find themselves at once confronted with the double problem of suppressing Jewish attempts to establish a Jewish State and of suppressing Arab attacks on the Jewish community;
- (d) the trusteeship administration would have all the problems of the Mandatory Power, including that of maintaining civil government with its own staff, exacerbated by Jewish disappointment and Arab suspicion.

2. Announcement of Jewish intention to resist trusteeship and establish state on termination of Mandate and any local reactions to it may have clarified assumptions on which your telegram No.719 was based. Should you wish to modify your appreciation in any way which would affect study to be conducted by Chiefs of Staff, please telegraph supplementary observations as soon as possible.

(Copies sent to Foreign Office for transmission to New York).

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R. 2403
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Sir S. Galt
Sir C. Gellie
Mr. Holding
Mr. Martin
Mr. Eaton
Mr. Mackenzie
Mr. Hignam
Mr. Galsworthy
Mr. Holmes
Mr. Dale
Cabinet Office

Customer Offices

History of Distance

156-25-223

Admission to

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History of Treatment

647. *Reithrodontomys*

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M. I. S.
Receives no official

Journal of Interpersonal Violence

May 1948

[illegible]

Public Record Office

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INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Cypher (C.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 28th March, 1948.
R. 28th " " 17.50 hrs.

5 APR 1948

INDEXED

No. 787 Top Secret.

Addressed S. of S.
Repeated UNDEL New York No. 823 top secret
(Washington please pass).

Your telegram No. 1156. Begins.

Jewish and Arab reactions to Trusteeship.

Arab opinion regarding a trusteeship is now less favourable than formerly, and appears to be progressively hardening. President Truman's statement as amplified by him to the press is likely to lead to outright rejection and there is also now little likelihood of Arab response to any Security Council or other U.N. appeal for truce. Thus, in so far as Arabs are concerned, Trustee administration might be faced with Arab opposition, possibly violent, and with continued attacks by Arabs on Jews.

2. (b) (c) (d) of paragraph 1 of your telegram follow once premise contained in (a) is granted. The latter represents the most unfavourable situation which could arise, and it may be that this assumption has been deliberately adopted in order that the situation likely to confront a Trustee administration may be assessed at its worst. But I think that we should examine whether in fact this assumption is to be taken as certain, or probable, or even unlikely.

3. President Truman's statement has put a rather different complexion on the American proposals for a trusteeship contained in UNDEL telegram to the Foreign Office No. 933 (your telegram No. 1089 to me). There now (groups omitted) to be two alternative possibilities, assuming that the necessary majority is forthcoming for a trusteeship:-

(a) That the resolution of 29th November would be rescinded and the Palestine issue reconsidered by U.N. on 29th.

(b) That resolution of 29th November would be either integrally or in principle reaffirmed, or what amounts to the same thing - that trusteeship resolution would be adopted without the resolution of 29th November being rescinded.

4. It would appear from the statements of the Executives of Vaad Leumi and the Jewish Agency, contained in my telegram No. 757, that the Jews are anxious to have the backing of (corrupt group) in whatever decision they reach as to their future course of action. This impression is strengthened by the tenor of the Jewish Agency spokesman's remarks quoted in my telegram No. 759. If therefore the Assembly reaffirmed the November resolution either integrally or at least the substance of it regarding early creation of a Jewish State by Partition, and made it clear that trusteeship was needed only to fill the administrative and security/

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SENT TO DEPT.

(1) That trusteeship implies that the resolution of 30th November is a (corrupt group);

President Truman's statement has gone some way to remove the first of these apprehensions. The second might be removed by an explicit declaration of the Assembly, thus I consider that in the circumstances envisaged under alternative (a) of paragraph 3 above a real possibility exists that Jews might accept a trusteeship.

6. The crucial difficulty as I see it is that as so often in Palestine it will be impossible to find a formula satisfactory to both Arabs and Jews. The Arabs will probably accept a trusteeship if it is coupled with the rescinding of the November resolution as well as severe restriction on immigration; the Jews will probably only accept a trusteeship if their position under the November resolution is not thereby impaired and if trusteeship is a device for implementing Partition within the legal framework of the charter. The assumptions contained in your telegram have therefore the alternatives:-

(b) That the circumstances in which the Jews would accept trusteeship are almost certain to preclude Arab acceptance.

(4) Arab attacks on Jews would continue

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INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Distributed to:-

R.245
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. Rees-Williams
Sir S. Caine
Sir C. Jeffries
Mr. Holding
Mr. Martin
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Galsworthy
Mr. Holmer
Mr. Dale
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✓ Ministry of Defence

Treasury

Admiralty

✓ War Office

" " (M.O.S.)

Ministry of Transport

Air Ministry

Foreign Office

M.I.5.

Foreign Office

War Office

Mr. S.E.V. Luke.
Brig. Cornwall-Jones.
Col. Sherman.
Mr. A.J. Nowling.
Major Gabbett.
Mr. D.F.C. Blunt.
Mr. W. Russell-Edmonds.
Mr. P.N.N. Symott.
Capt. Maunsell.
Capt. D.H. Hall-Thompson.
Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
Brig. J.R.C. Hamilton.
Brig. R.L. Wandbrough-Jones.
Lt. Col. Charteris.
Maj. C. de B. de Lisle.
Mr. B.F. Picknett.
Mr. F.C. Rennie.
Air Commodore Brook.
Grp. Capt. V.H.B. Roth.
Mr. B.A.B. Burrows.
Mr. H. Beeley.
Mr. J.G.S. Beith.
Mr. J.C. Robertson.
P.S. to Sir Orme Sargent.
P.S. to Foreign Secretary.
C.I.G.S.

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E 3632

192

1948

PALESTINE

18 MAR 1948

Registry Number E3632/4/31

FROM Colonial Office

No.

Dated Comm. 18th Mar

Received in Registry

Review of Palestine Situation.

Palestine telegram No, 637 dated 13th March
Reviews position from Palestine Govt point of view
in face of possibility of United Nations Commission's
non-arrival in Palestine.
Suggests that a United Nations body should be sent
out to take over from Palestine Govt on May 15th,
but not to implement partition, this body would
have some chance of averting complete chaos during
interim period.

Last Paper.

2631

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

*This telegram is very timely in view of the new turn
which events have been taking since it was sent.*

*Note the amendment at para 5 in a sentence covering
a crucial point.*

*D. Balfour
18/3*

*H. Beeley
19/3*

*J. H. S. S. S. S.
20/3*

This is an interesting telegram. With
reference to paragraph 6 the problem of Jerusalem will
again require special consideration now that the
Assembly Plan for Palestine looks like being shelved.

M. S. Wright

22nd March, 1948

689 ch 23

(Action completed.)

16/4 25/4

(Index.)

16/4 25/4

Next Paper.

3635

26513 F.O.P.

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INWARD TELEGRAM.

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

(AMENDED COPY. Amendment on second page underlined)

Cypher(O.T.P.)

E 3632

FROM PALESTINE(Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

15 MAR 1948

D. 13th March, 1948.

R. 13th " " 19.40 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No.637 Top Secret

Addressed to the S. of S.
Repeated to Washington, No.134. (Please pass to
UKDEL as my No.690 and Suras).

As viewed from Palestine, it would seem that the outcome of present proceedings regarding this country in both Security and Trusteeship Councils may well result in either present Palestine Commission not coming to Palestine at all or, if it comes, that its functions may be limited. It seems necessary therefore to review our position here in the light of such possible eventuality.

2. The United Nations through Mr. Lie have firmly announced their responsibility for Palestine when we leave; and I assume that there is no possibility of weakening on (I sur) part in regard to termination of the Mandate on 15th May. The problem is therefore one for United Nations, but as a good member of that body, I suggest we cannot entirely disinterest ourselves in what happens in Palestine after termination of the Mandate. It cannot be in our interests to allow Palestine to fall into complete chaos or Jerusalem to become a cockpit.

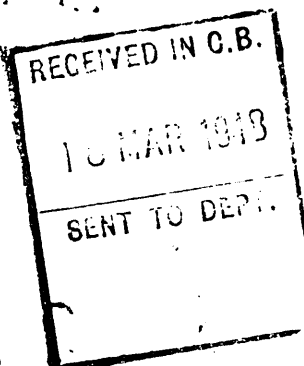
3. The tasks facing United Nations in respect of Palestine after we leave would appear to be

- (a) Prevention or limiting of violence between Arabs and Jews.
- (b) The preservation of economic structure of the country to greatest extent possible.
- (c) The safeguarding of Jerusalem.

I do not believe (a) can be accomplished on basis of agency of partition plan even if an international force did emerge. It would seem that United Nations have recognised this and are placing some machinery in motion for negotiation or revision. But however the question is dealt with, it would seem likely now that there will be an interim period after our departure for which United Nations will have to make arrangements to meet needs of (a), (b), and (c) above.

4. This will clearly entail presence of some U.N.O. body in Palestine. I believe if such a body were sent out here during the interim period, and divorced from the task of implementing partition or any other solution, it would have some chance of meeting, any way in part, the requirements of the situation as set out in paragraph 3, but particularly (b) and (c). At/

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At first sight, it would appear convenient to use present Commission for this purpose, but there is no doubt that from the Arab point of view they would be tainted and unacceptable, particularly as Lisicky was a member of U.F.S.C.O.P. and concerned in production of the partition plan.

5. The Jews will certainly wish to proceed with setting up their provisional Government whatever happens. They should, however, remain amenable to U.N.C. influence. The extent to which this step would inflame the Arabs will depend on how it can be represented as a natural process towards giving extended powers to committees not necessarily associated with U.N.C. in its accomplishment.

6. Regarding Jerusalem. Pre-announcement of decision by Trusteeship Council to adopt statute coupled with apparent reluctance of United Nations Commission to accept responsibility of administering Jerusalem constitutes as directly with proposal of abandoning the Holy City to disorder on 15th May. It seems to me of great importance to get it recognised that whether or not Commission find their full task practicable, responsibility of administering Jerusalem after 15th May belongs to United Nations.

There is no need for me to emphasise again that for Jerusalem at least some solution must be found before we go, and this would seem to be recognised by the four powers in question 6 put to the Arab Higher Committee by them. (Your telegram No. 965 to me, No. 856 from New York to Foreign Office just received refers).

Revised opinion 15th March.

Distributed to:-

R. GAS
Secretary of State
Sir E. Lloyd
Mr. Rose-Wilkinson
Sir E. Caine
Mr. C. Jeffries
Mr. Haining
Mr. Martin
Mr. Trafford Smith
Foreign Office

Mr. Cohen
Mr. Matheson
Mr. Bigham
Mr. Colverton
Mr. Holman
Mr. Dale

Mr. H. Bealey.

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E

E 3635

18 MAR 1948

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1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number E3635/4/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. Mr. Houston-
Boswall
BEIRUT~~SECRET~~204
Received } 17th Mar
in Registry } 18th "Alternatives to Partition Plan.

Minister for Foreign Affairs informed that according to latest reports received from the Lebanese delegate at Lake Success, it was almost certain that the Partition plan would go by the board and that opinion there was bearing on a solution on basis of either (a) Federation (on lines of Lebanese Delegate's last minute proposal at the Assembly's meeting in November) or (b) Trusteeship (with controlled immigration) for a limited period.

Last Paper.

3632

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Walkerman 40
Therman Baboff
Leters 1415
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Adamsy
QW1 ON E3656
Mar 19th

(Action completed.)

P. 11/22/3

(Index.)

3/11/48

Next Paper.

3636

(Minutes.)

D. Balfour
18/3

H.B. 18/3

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E 3635

18 MAR 1948

195
END

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Cypher/OTR

DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTIONFROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Houstoun-Boswall

No. 204

17th March, 1948

D. 7.15 a.m. 18th March, 1948

R. 9.02 a.m. 18th March, 1948

Repeated to New York (U.K. Delegation)

Jerusalem

Cairo (B.M.E.O.)

Damascus Saving

Cairo Saving

Bagdad Saving

Jedda Saving

Amman Saving

SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 204 of 17th March repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Jerusalem, British Middle East Office Cairo and Saving Damascus, Cairo, Bagdad, Jedda, Amman.

Palestine.

Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Mr. Evans this afternoon that according to the latest reports received from the Lebanese Delegate at Lake Success, it was almost certain that the partition plan would go by the board and that opinion there was bearing on a solution on basis either of

- (a) Federation (on lines of Lebanese Delegate's last minute proposal at the Assembly meeting in November) or
- (b) Trusteeship (with controlled immigration) for a limited period.

2. Minister for Foreign Affairs said that the Political Committee of the Arab League now meeting in Beirut were opposed to both these solutions and were in favour of standing by the Arab plan submitted at the London Conference.

3. Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Telegram No. 204 from Beirut to Foreign Office

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3. Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he feared that the Arabs by insisting on too much, might lose an opportunity, and gave Mr. Evans to understand that he personally inclined to solution (b) in the form of a British trusteeship.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegram No. 3.

[Repeated to U.K. Delegation New York]

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